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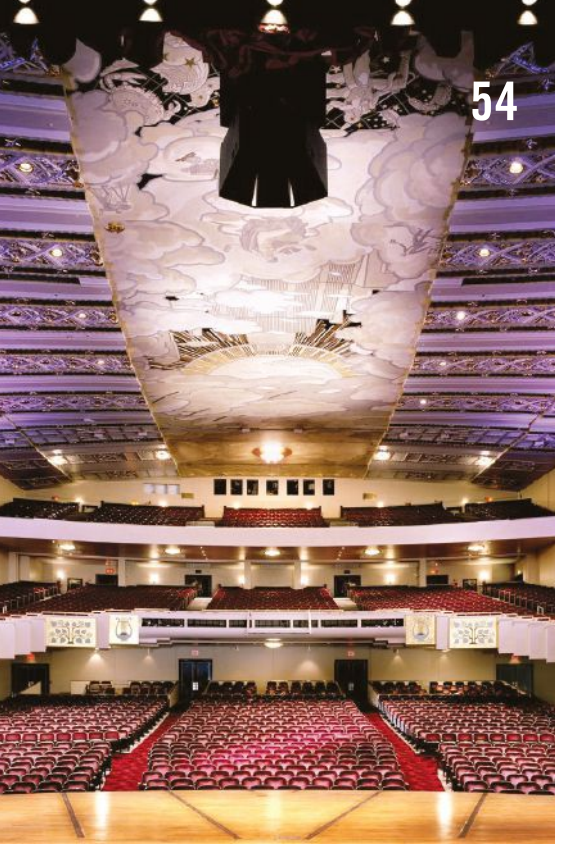

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Cover:"Imagine Hartford," illustration by Magge Gagliardi.

This page: (top) Mortensen Hall at The Bushnell in Hartford, winner for Best Performing Arts Venue (Large); (bottom) Hoodoo Brown barbecue.

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The Best of 'Burden'

Once again, we've been tasked with the "burden" of selecting the "Best of Connecticut," our annual celebration of the best food, drink, entertainment, activities, shopping and more that the state has to offer. For the edit staff, that meant gathering together repeatedly over the course of a few weeks in early summer and, in a somewhat objective subjective manner, debating and discussing the multiple choices in each of the more than 100 categories for that coveted designation.

Actually, we jokingly refer to the process as a "burden"—in truth, it's one of the . . . well, *best* parts of our jobs as it gives us free reign to explore this amazing state. We gladly sample everything from apple pie to craft beer to tacos (not all at once!), explore all manner of museum, action park and entertainment venue, and become familiar with numerous shopping and retail options. And yes, it's mostly as fun as it sounds!

Considering how we go about creating every issue, finding the "Best of Connecticut" is really our full-time focus here. Throughout the entire year, we are continually striving to discover and share the people, the places and the stories from across the Constitution State that we think are the most compelling. In this issue, for example, starting on page 37 in "All Aglow," Kate Hartman profiles Jason Aleksa, an investment banker by day who fashions cool, eye-catching, gotta-have lamps from found vintage and antique items. On page 75, Erik Ofgang dips into the "American Dream" story of Yosi Awad, who has turned his love for the Middle Eastern food of his youth into Yosi Kitchen and Yosi Kosher Catering of Windsor, an up-and-coming producer and distributor of fresh, high-quality hummus and other Middle Eastern dishes. Two very different subjects—lamps and hummus—but both equally fascinating parts of Connecticut's overall story.

In fact, if we are "burdened" with anything here, it's trying to find enough time and space to present all the things that we think are cool and interesting and fun that you should know about. That's always the biggest challenge each month, working to find that ideal balance of stories and topics that will make for the best possible issue we can offer to you.

We hope you enjoy reading about the best food and drink, places to see, things to do and spots to shop as much as we enjoyed compiling it all. We heartily encourage you to visit and experience our choices, and then to let us know what you enjoyed, what you didn't and what we may have missed.

In other words, feel free to join the fun and help us with our "burden" for next time!

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Testing, Testing...

PARENTS MAY WANT TO DO A BIT OF STUDYING BEFORE GETTING THEIR CHILDREN SAT OR ACT TUTORING.

Whatever happened to going to high school, taking the usual classes, joining clubs or playing sports, having fun, taking the SATs no more than twice, then applying to colleges and hoping for the best?

What happened is that businesses, including universities, have taken over, and for many kids the whole process of high school education has turned into an intense competition to get into whatever schools they or their parents desire. And with that comes a litany of SATs, ACTs, SBACs, AP exams, finals . . . .

For Connecticut high school juniors, it's one hours-long test after another, as they strive to showcase their brainpower in advance of applying to colleges.

Indeed, to ease the test workload, Connecticut Gov. Dannel Malloy announced in August that the U.S. Department of Education approved a waiver request he submitted on behalf of the state to reduce the amount of standardized tests required. In an effort to eliminate duplicative testing and reduce student stress, the governor last fall sought federal approval to replace the 11th grade Smarter Balance Assessment (SBAC) with the SAT.

"While exams that test college readiness are essential to helping us gauge where we are as a state and help guide instruction, we are doing our part to mitigate over-testing, a common concern among parents," said Malloy. "There's a balance to be struck, and we're working to reach it."

With the approval, starting this school year the SAT will be used in lieu of SBAC, and will be free for all Connecticut students.

Although the measure will allow high school juniors to exhale a bit, their quests to achieve excellent scores still exists.

This past spring, juniors at Staples High School in Westport were informed that they could go take 'free' SAT or ACT practice tests offered by a national tutoring company that had a branch in town.

It seemed like a no-brainer. Unfortunately it was—literally.

The tests were created by the company, and made significantly harder than the actual SAT/ACT exams. Grades were only revealed during an in-person conference with the student and a parent, during which opportunities for expensive tutoring were offered.

It's not a stretch to say that a student's SAT/ACT test score is almost as important as his or her high school GPA (grade point average), which is established over four years of academic study. So tutoring services can serve a purpose for some. But parents should investigate and ask questions beforehand.

"When you take the real SAT or ACT, they have a team of psychometricians who spend years developing the questions, validating them and trying them out in different ways on different tests," says Dr. Bryan Luizzi, New Canaan Superintendent of Schools and former principal of New Canaan and Brookfield high schools. "It's what makes these tests important, and why we can use the scores at all. So if there's a group creating their own questions without going through that kind of rigorous process, I'd have to question their validity."

In Westport, many parents also received a five-page "come-on" letter from another tutoring service that had no mention of the price (usually $100 an hour). It did trumpet a 'Score Increase Guarantee,' from PSAT to SAT after a 30-hour tutoring commitment.

So if the student's score does not increase, do the parents get their money back? Not quite. Most companies just usually offer more tutoring, at no extra cost.

There isn't much students can do quickly to improve their GPAs, but a high SAT/ACT

| CONTINUED ON PAGE 11 |

MICHAELJOURK/ISTOCK/THINKSTOCK

Climbing for a Cause

A NEW FAIRFIELD MAN IS TAKING STEPS—LOTS OF THEM—TO HONOR THE FALLEN OF 9/11.

The view, as one would expect, is spectacular.

At the observatory on the 100th floor at One World Trade Center, a godlike vision of Manhattan stretches below you, buildings seem mere children's toys and the world appears small and vast at the same time.

Gazing at this sight on May 17, New Fairfield's John Hodge was moved by more than aesthetics. He was at the tower to help organize the first-ever stair climb at the new building, informally known as the Freedom Tower, which opened last November. The event was a symbolic nod to the tragic stair climbs so many rescue workers made at the original World Trade Center towers on 9/11. It was organized by two nonprofits formed in honor of firefighters who died in the terrorist attacks—the Captain Billy Burke Foundation and Stephen Siller Tunnel To Towers Foundation. Hodge is chief operating officer of Tunnel To Towers and Siller's cousin.

At the climb in May, rescue workers were the first participants allowed to make the run up the stairs and there were representatives from Siller and Burke's firehouses, as well as from the Port Authority Police Department and NYPD.

"It was a very emotional day, because as I've said before, life and death, triumph and tragedy, happened in the stairwells of those two buildings, and here we were being allowed to go into One World Trade Center, which is the same address that the North Tower had," he says.

For Hodge, the memory of his cousin gave the moment more emotional resonance. Fourteen years ago on the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, Siller had just gotten off the late shift at Squad 1, in Park Slope, Brooklyn. He was on his way to play golf with his brothers when he learned from his scanner that a plane had hit one of the towers. He immediately returned to Squad 1 to get his gear, then started driving his truck toward the towers but the Brooklyn-Battery Tunnel (now the Hugh L. Carey Tunnel) was already closed. Strapping 60 pounds of gear on his back, Siller ran through the tunnel and to the South Tower where he perished attempting to help others.

Siller's real-life story is starting to become part of American folklore. "All across the country people know this guy's story at this point. They don't always recognize the name but they all remember the story and that's incredible," Hodge says.

Every September since, thousands of runners have retraced Siller's heroic final steps in the Tunnel To Towers 5K Run & Walk. This year's event will take place on Sunday, Sept. 27, and is the first run since One World Trade was opened.

Through the run and other efforts, the organization has raised millions—including more than $50 million for rebuilding efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. One of its main programs consists of building high-end smart homes for veterans who have returned from conflicts missing limbs.

Hodge is a former theater producer and politician. In the 1990s he ran shows at the defunct Candlewood Playhouse Theater in New Fairfield. Shortly after the theater closed in 1998, he got involved in town politics becoming First Selectman in 2005.

The Tunnels To Towers event was started by Siller's siblings but Hodge became more involved over time. In 2013, he resigned as First Selectman with several months remaining on his term because he wanted to devote himself fully to the organization. Today, he helps run it from a busy home office in a quiet New Fairfield neighborhood.

The nonprofit continues to grow. In addition to its signature Towers To Tunnel run, plans are underway to make a tower climb an annual event and multiple runs are being organized in various locations around the coun-

Runners complete the 2014 Tunnel to Towers run

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE STEPHEN SILLER TUNNEL TO TOWERS FOUNDATION

John Hodge, chief operating officer of the Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Foundation, at the 2014 Tunnel To Towers run *(left)* and at the press conference for the 2015 Tunnel to Towers Tower Climb *(above)*

try. The organization also operates a traveling 9/11 exhibit that has artifacts from the towers and is staffed by first responders who survived that day.

Hodge believes that one of the things that has made the Stephen Siller Tunnel To Towers foundation and other events headed up by the organization so successful is that it strikes a mood that, though respectful, is more celebratory than somber. "I think a lot of times people shy away from September 11 memorials because it brings them back to a really horrible time in their life. This is a way to be brought back in an uplifting manner," Hodge says. "The Tunnels To Tower run is a celebration of what these men and women did that day; it ends in this enormous street fair where we have a concert stage and free food for everyone. It really ends in a big party." This year, performers at the event will include Bernie Williams and The Bacon Brothers.

Beyond fundraising, another effort of the organization is remembrance so that future attacks can be avoided. Hodge often asks people if they remember what they were doing on Feb. 26, 1993; few people recognize the date but it was the day of the first World Trade Center terrorist attack, which Hodge sees as a warning sign that was not heeded. "By and large 9/11 is not being taught in the school systems in the United States in any great detail," he says.

It's all part of why holding the stair climb at the One World Trade Center in May was so moving, and why this year's Towers To Tunnel's run, which will be held in the shadow of the building, is a milestone.

"[The building's opening marks] the triumphant return of lower Manhattan, for the Port Authority and for everyone involved in that rebuilding project," says Hodge. "It signals we are back and we are stronger and better than ever and we built this beautiful building as we promised we would." | E.O. |

score can help offset lower grades earned over four years of high school, which is one reason some parents are willing to pay big for tutors. Students can take the tests multiple times with no worries about lesser scores on some.

"We take into consideration only the best scores that a student has received, so if they take five tests, we'll only look at the scores that benefit them the most," says Nathan Fuerst, Director of Undergraduate Admissions at the University of Connecticut. "The tests are obviously important, and a factor we look at, along with GPA, strength of [academic] schedule, the student's involvement and their essay.

"My advice to students is to concentrate on getting good grades, and not get wrapped up in the weight of the tests. It's just one piece of the process."

UConn has had a huge increase in applications from high school seniors the past few years, adding to the angst of Connecticut parents trying to get their kids into a more affordable state school.

"Six years ago we had around 22,000 applications," says Fuerst. "This fall we had 35,000. It's been pretty incredible. Where it's been more notable in Connecticut is that there's actually a declining number of graduating high school seniors at the moment; every year a few less, a few less. But there's been a tremendous growth at UConn from outside the state."

Doug Richardson and Brent Haney have unique views on SATs/ACTs, the college admissions process and tutoring's role. They, along with two others, established Competitive Edge College Advisors, a Fairfield County-based company that "helps high school students and their families navigate a successful college selection experience." The business does not do any tutoring, but will recommend it for students on occasion.

"For some college admissions officers, the SAT or ACT score is the tiebreaker," says Richardson. "They're going to look at the GPA and extracurricular activities, what kind of student they'd be, and how they'd contribute to the college community. If there are kids that are tied, then they look at the SAT or ACT.

"Where a student's score is now (based off the PSAT) versus where a particular school needs it to be for admission, parents have to make a decision regarding tutoring. Is it worth it? Because there is no magic potion when you get with these tutoring organizations."

Haney points out that if a student needs to improve their score they don't necessarily have to be tutored, but if they opt for it, there's a lot more involved that just writing a check.

"Tutoring companies are good marketers, but a little heavy-handed," he says. "They all do introductory trials to get you in. Overall I think the services are pretty good. Some are just bigger machines than others."

Haney says if a student is self-motivated, they can obtain SAT/ACT practice books and work through them in lieu of tutoring.

"If the decision is made to get tutoring, there needs to be preparation from the parents and the student," says Haney. "The student has to connect with the tutor, and the tutor has to understand the learning style of the student. Parents have to judge how the student is doing after a few sessions, because tutoring can be a months-long process. Students have to look at it as almost a sixth course, and do the work assigned in between tutoring sessions."

Luizzi and Fuerst agree that there is a terrific alternative to costly tutoring: Khan Academy.

A nonprofit educational organization created in 2006 by educator Salman Khan to provide "a free, world-class education for anyone, anywhere," the primarily online resource offers practice exercises, instructional videos via YouTube and personalized learning that empowers people to study at their own pace in and outside of the classroom.

"The SAT is changing this year to align with Common Core (standardized teaching from state to state), with part of the goal being to allow access for all students to free preparation programs," says Luizzi.

"I don't think test-prep tutoring services are going away because there are enough students looking to improve their scores," says Fuerst. "You should be cautious of jumping in to any third-party type of vendor. We encourage students to work with their guidance counselors."

The difficulty these days in getting accepted to colleges of their choice is different for students compared to their parents' generation, according to Haney

"First, colleges are going overseas and marketing their schools, trying for diversity and to get the best students globally, not just in the U.S.," he says. "Second is technology, with the common application. Students can apply to a fairly large number of schools without as much effort and time as their parents did."

Luizzi hopes students put SATs, ACTs, tutoring, and the college-application process into perspective, and would like the colleges to do the same with test scores.

"The tests are a snapshot in time," he says. "Schools that set SAT or ACT scores as a baseline, and won't look at applications beneath a certain result, do a disservice to our kids. We're here to teach, to help students grow. We're talent-development centers.

"Regarding tutoring services, parents should investigate them, and network with others who've been through it. They should meet the tutor, and everyone should keep an eye open for other opportunities to come along as new methods arrive the next few years based on realignment of the tests."

| MICHAEL CATAREVAS |

Bridge Work

THE STATE IS ABOUT TO GET A NEW, AUTHENTIC COVERED BRIDGE.

Spanning rivers and gorges across the country, covered bridges are a perennial favorite of tourists and postcard companies. They're also an endangered species.

"Each year in this country we lose covered bridges to flood, arson and neglect," says Richard Perry, a covered bridge enthusiast who is a public defender in Norwich. To span the gap between the past and the present, Perry has embarked on a multiyear effort to build the first authentic covered bridge in Connecticut in more than 150 years.

After two years of planning and work, that bridge is ready to be placed over a brook and pond on Perry's farm on Wawecus Hill Road in Norwich—just over a mile away from where Wawecus Hill Road intersects with Route 82. On Sunday, Sept. 13, the bridge, which is 60 feet long and 18 feet wide and weighs over 45 tons, will be moved into its spot over the water by a team of oxen, the traditional method for transporting covered bridges. The event will began around 10 a.m. and is open to the public. In addition to watching the bridge settled into its final resting place, there will be live music and food.

"Traditionally when covered bridges were moved into place, the local citizens threw a party with music and food to celebrate their good fortune, and we plan to do the same," Perry says.

The bridge will be called the Gold Mine Bridge and is named after a long-abandoned gold mine in the nearby hills. During its construction, great pains were taken to ensure it was made in a historically authentic manner.

"Each abutment is constructed of 300 tons of cut granite blocks that were salvaged from old barn foundations in New Hampshire and Maine and shipped to Norwich," Perry explains. "In keeping with the total authenticity of the project, the abutments contain only material, the granite blocks, which would have been available 150 years ago. There is no concrete or other substance used in the construction. A number of so-called authentic covered bridges actually rest on concrete abutments or their original stone abutments were repaired using concrete. This use of modern materials compromises the bridge's status as an authentic covered bridge."

The Gold Mine Bridge will be the third or fourth covered bridge in the state, depending on how strict your definition of "traditional" is. The other three are the West Cornwall Bridge in Cornwall (built in 1841), Bull's Bridge in Kent (built in 1842) and the Comstock Bridge in East Hampton. Though the Comstock Bridge was built in 1873, Perry questions its designation because several years ago the state repaired the bridge with steel I-beams.

Connecticut has a connection to covered bridge history as famed state architect Ithiel Town developed the Town lattice bridge design in the early 1800s, which allowed covered bridges to be built relatively quickly by unskilled workers from readily available material. (Both the West Cornwall Bridge and Bull's Bridge employ the techniques Town developed.)

To build his bridge, Perry enlisted Arnold Groton, a master bridge wright. Groton, who lives in New Hampshire, has been working on covered bridges since the 1950s and 1960s. He says these bridges are part of our national heritage. "It's a big part of the history of this nation, the engineering and technology that went into an old wooden bridge that would last with very little care up to 200 years maybe longer," he says. "Arson is the biggest threat to covered bridges. If they're cared for at all, they'll last as long as you keep a roof on them."

This will be the 17th new covered bridge Groton has built in a traditional manner but he says this project is unique because it's being funded privately. Ultimately, it will still be enjoyed by the public.

Perry plans to open the bridge on the weekends and for special events. "It takes a lot of time and energy and money to develop something like this. I appreciate that [Perry] wants to leave this for generations to come and enjoy," Groton says. | E.O. |

(above) **Young patients at a hospital in Kathmandu AmeriCares supplied with medicine and medical supplies in the aftermath of the April 2015 earthquake.** (right) **AmeriCares aid workers transport relief supplies for typhoon survivors in the Philippines.**

|community|

BY KATE HARTMAN

THE ORGANIZATION: AmeriCares

THE STORY: It began with one man's determination. New Canaan resident Robert Macauley chartered a Boeing 747 on April 4, 1975, to rescue a group of Vietnamese orphans when it became clear the U.S. government wouldn't be able to help them for several days. Within 48 hours the children were safe in California and the template for AmeriCares was set.

The Stamford-based global aid organization was founded in 1982 to "save lives and improve the health of people in crisis," explains President and CEO Michael J. Nyenhuis. That mission takes a variety of forms, from hyper-local to global assistance—beginning with four free clinics in Fairfield County where AmeriCares is able to offer basic primary health care to the uninsured.

"We have a long-term commitment to the people in Connecticut," says Nyenhuis. "We provide services to 3,000 patients every year. It's the largest free clinic program in Connecticut. Over 20 years, we have helped 23,000 patients [and provided] $60 million in health care here in our backyard."

AmeriCares partners with more than 2,000 clinics and health-care centers throughout the U.S., providing medications and health supplies. The organization annually delivers a similar service to more than 3,500 hospitals and clinics in 90 countries around the world.

The final piece is its disaster response system. When a major crisis occurs, like Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans or the recent earthquake in Nepal, AmeriCares coordinates with the World Health Organization, the United Nations and other groups to provide relief.

"There are a lot of international agencies. There are a lot of local nonprofits that carry out social service work. AmeriCares sort of spans both of those," says Nyenhuis. "[We] recognize the need to reach out to our neighbors, wherever they are.

"Despite the fact that we're probably known for our disaster work, the majority of what we are doing is day in and day out getting supplies where they need to go," he continues. "That's the glue that holds it together. [We're] the world's largest distributor of donated medicines and medical supplies."

AmeriCares has processed approximately $500 million worth of medical supplies in its Stamford distribution center. Since its founding, the organization has delivered $12 billion in aid to 164 countries.

The disaster relief and clinic networks are made possible through longstanding relationships with organizations on the ground in different countries. AmeriCares has a team of 280 employees, half based in Stamford and the rest spread out around the globe, who work to foster new relationships and maintain old ones. It's all part of the growth strategy, which aims to provide better and faster action response programs.

"We have historical relationships that continue to be important today," says Nyenhuis. "In El Salvador, we work with local organizations that run the clinics. We've worked with them for years. During the Nepal earthquake, we identified organizations while we were on the ground there we had never worked with before. [We are] in conversations with them, making sure they are credible. We add them to our partner network as we go."

On Oct. 3, the organization will host its signature charity event, the 28th annual AmeriCares Airlift Benefit at the Westchester County Airport. It's a night filled with dinner, dancing and information about the organization's work. At the end of the night, a group of attendees will change from party clothes, walk out onto the tarmac and board a plane headed for Guatemala.

"It is directly out of the playbook of our founder. It does have that feel of 'let's get on a plane and go help someone,'" says Nyenhuis. "That's what drove Bob and his wife Leila to found the organization."

americares.org

If you have an organization with an event that you'd like us to consider for the Community page, please send the details to khartman@connecticutmag.com.

(CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT) AMERICARES PHOTOS BY MATTHEW MCDERMOTT, ALEX OSTASIEWICZ, CHET GORDON

AmeriCares President and CEO Michael J. Nyenhuis meets with fistula patients at a hospital AmeriCares supports in Tanzania.

1

2

fanciful

Wild, warm and wonderful touches for a fabulous fall look

3

6

5

4

STYLED BY MARY YOUNGLOVE

Fall

1 Tory Burch tall Sarava Boot in red agate leather with heel embellishment, $750. Tory Burch, Westfarms, Farmington, (860) 521-3682, toryburch.com.

2 Handmade cuff bracelet with recycled metal and Druzy stone, $375. J. Seitz, New Preston, (860) 868-0119, jseitz.com.

3 Love Heals "Valparaiso" necklace with grey freshwater pearls and blue sodalite on waxed linen cord with silver ornaments, $448. Workshop Inc., Litchfield, (860) 567-0544, workshoponthegreen.com.

4 She & Lo "Next Chapter" spacious leather mini satchel in bordeaux for modern sophistication with workwear-inspired design. $248 at Kimberly Boutique, West Hartford, (860) 523-4894, shopkimberly.com.

5 Aged patina adds to Ace of Spades belt with four images and Swarovski crystal. Interchangeable buckles with black or brown calf leather. 22K gold leaf and enamel, handmade in Norwalk. $248. Lux Bond & Green, Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, (860) 862-9900, and other locations, lbg.com.

6 Judith Lieber onyx texture, grey-lense Zyl sunglasses with pavé Swarovski crystals and Swarovski elements, $690. Specs, Westport, (203) 226-8380, and other locations, specsforyou.com.

Charcoal cigarette pant bi-stretch, $290; alligator print tie blouse, $370; and Mongolian fur vest, $563. All at Stackpole, Moore & Tryon, Hartford, (860) 522-0181, stackpolemooretryon.com.

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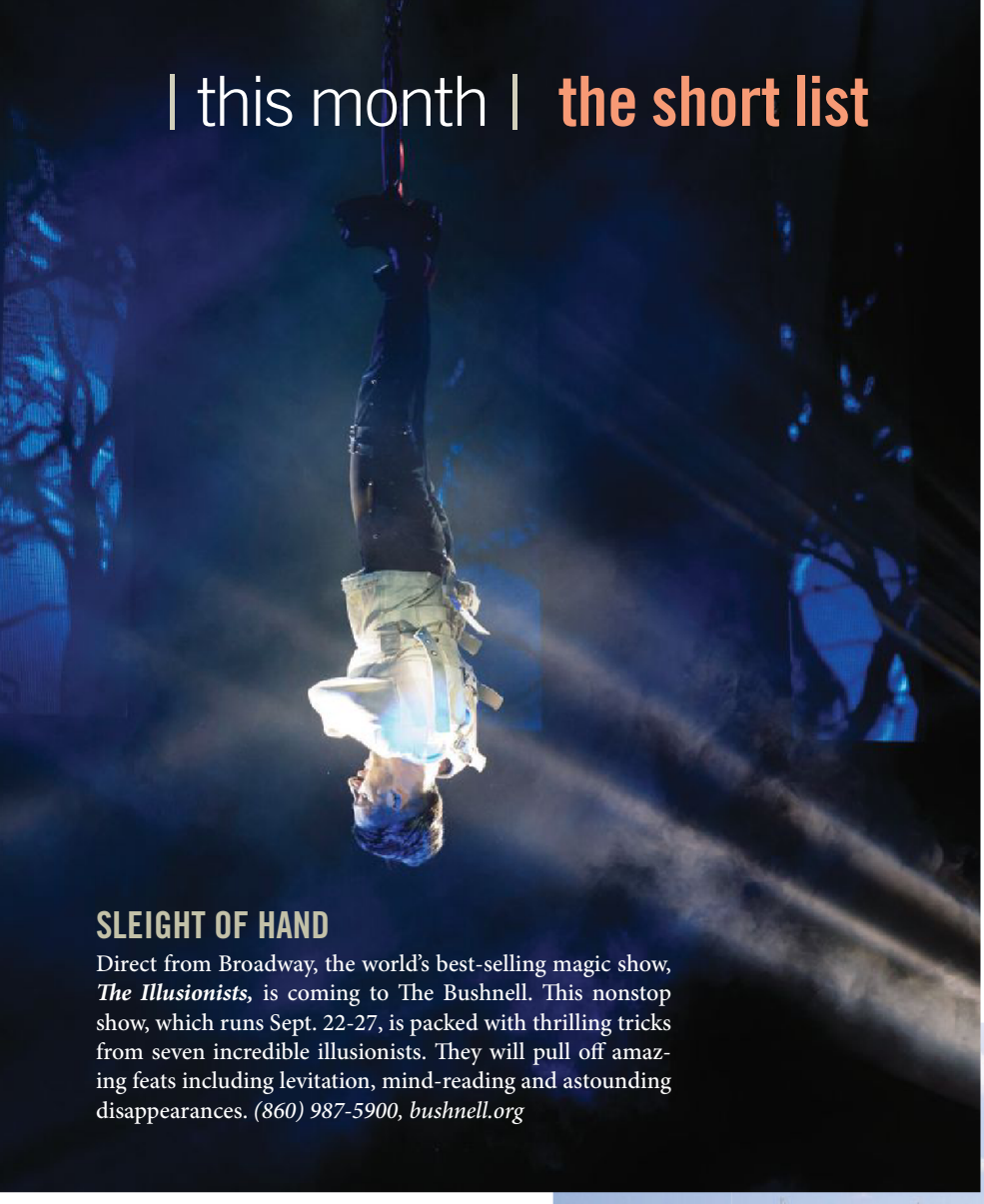
CHARLES HAROLD DAVIS (1856–1933): MYSTIC IMPRESSIONIST

SEPT. 26–JAN. 3
THE BRUCE MUSEUM, GREENWICH
(203) 869-0376, brucemuseum.org

MYSTIC IMPRESSIONS

The Bruce Museum will honor the oft-neglected Connecticut artist Charles Harold Davis in a retrospective exhibit opening on Sept. 26. Davis, who was one of the founding members of the famed Mystic Art Colony, lived in the town for 40 years and painted the landscapes around him, such as "The Old Pasture, 1919" (*above*). He was highly regarded during his life, but his legacy has largely faded over time. ***Charles Harold Davis (1856-1933): Mystic Impressionist*** aims to reintroduce the public to this prolific artist. His transformation from "a delicate Barbizon style to an atmospheric Impressionism to the bold, expressive style of his final years" will be on display through Jan. 3.

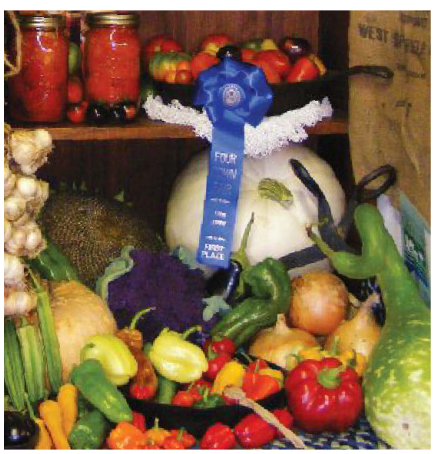


SLEIGHT OF HAND

Direct from Broadway, the world's best-selling magic show, ***The Illusionists,*** is coming to The Bushnell. This nonstop show, which runs Sept. 22-27, is packed with thrilling tricks from seven incredible illusionists. They will pull off amazing feats including levitation, mind-reading and astounding disappearances. *(860) 987-5900, bushnell.org*

FOUR TOWN FAIR

Agriculture is at the forefront of this long-running fair in Somers where the area's best livestock and produce is on display. Competition abounds, from judging the heaviest pumpkins to a mouthwatering pie-eating contest, and there is plenty of live entertainment to go around. The **Four Town Fair** takes place at the Somers fairgrounds, Sept. 17-20. *(860) 749-6527, fourtownfair.com*



ON THE HIGH SEAS

Our state's maritime history will be honored at the **Connecticut Maritime Heritage Festival** in New London Sept. 9-12. Tour several traditional ships and schooners and enjoy the juried maritime art show. On Saturday, take part in the Great New London Chowder Challenge—where visitors can vote for their favorite recipe from local restaurants—and then cap off the weekend by admiring the Lighted Boat Parade on the Thames River. *(860) 447-2519, shoonerfest.com*

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE

The classic holiday film *It's a Wonderful Life* gets a tuneful reimagining in the stage version that comes to the Goodspeed Opera House in East Haddam beginning on Sept. 18. In ***A Wonderful Life***, the quaint town of Bedford Falls comes alive when a would-be angel swoops in to rescue desperate banker George Bailey on Christmas Eve. Bring the family for this must-see holiday affair until Nov. 29. *(860) 873-8668, goodspeed.org*

LOVE BOAT

Hundreds of the newest yachts, cruisers, sport fishers, performance boats and personal watercraft will fill the Norwalk Cove Marina on Sept. 24-27 for the **Norwalk Boat Show**, sponsored by Progressive. It's the perfect place to find your dream boat and learn about boat care. While you're there, take in on-the-water demos, enjoy live entertainment and sweepstakes. There will be fun kids' activities too, so bring the whole family. *boatshownorwalk.com*

SWEET SEPTEMBER

Septemberfest is a three-day festival of family fun, food and entertainment that's not to be missed. This end-of-summer event takes place at the Simsbury Meadows Sept. 11-13, and features delicious grub from area restaurants, live musical entertainment and a Business Expo of area retailers and organizations. Friday night will be capped with a stunning fireworks display—the perfect way to say goodbye to summer. *(860) 651-4052, simsburymeadowsmusic.com*

See September 2015 calendar listings at connecticutmag.com/calendar

The desire to live closer to their two daughters prompted Bob and Lorna to search for their ideal continuing care retirement community — a not-for-profit with lots of outdoor beauty and space.

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For more information, see page 86

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Kathleen Madigan has been on the road, making a living as a highly respected standup comic, for 25 years. She's traveled the country, done two USO tours in Afghanistan and Iraq alongside other comedians and appeared on pretty much every late-night talk show from Leno to Conan. In her frank style, she admits it's too late for her to try anything else, but that's okay—she has always loved making people laugh, though she had no idea it could be a job. On Sept. 19, the funny lady is at **Foxwoods Resort & Casino**.

Have you visited Connecticut before?
Oh yeah, I'm familiar with the area. It's so pretty up there and an awesome gig. Every comic I know says that's a great gig. Within our incestuous circle we have our own opinions, and everyone likes it.

Do you like traveling?
I've had a lot of time off this summer. I've had sporadic shows, but Sept. 1 through May 30 I'm working almost every night. There becomes a rhythm. I've been on the road for 20-some-odd years. There are no breaks like a band. We can maybe take a few weeks off like a normal person. I'm not like the Foo Fighters or anything. The travel only bothers me with the stress on [the airlines'] end. If you told me the flights would be on time and there wouldn't be a problem with the rental car, [it would be fine]. The rental cars need to stop with "or similar." They will say "You could have a Ford Fusion or similar." They count a bobsled—like "I'm sorry sir, that's not the same as a Ford Fusion." "Well it's similar. They both go forward."

What keeps it fun for you?
I'm still going to places I haven't been. Just when I think I've been everywhere, they open a new theater somewhere. I just like going and seeing what's going on in different places. I wanted to be a flight attendant but I was too short. You had to be 5 feet 2 inches and I'm 5 feet 1.5 inches.

KATHLEEN MADIGAN
SEPT. 19 | FOXWOODS CASINO
(800)369-9663, foxwoods.com

Do you enjoy performing for our troops?
The USO trips are the most interesting because you're getting this look at this world most people will never see unless they join the military. No one in my family was in the military. I didn't know anything about it until I started doing this. There are never more appreciative audiences because you're coming right to them. Like you could perform in Chicago, they come to the show and they enjoy it but they could have done a million other things. We come right to them in middle of nowhere Afghanistan. They're happy people remembered them. I don't need them to be extra excited, but they are. It makes for a great night.

Any great memories from those trips?
Kandahar has this big square in the middle of the base with stores where they can shop. [A group of soldiers] had chairs out there and I asked, "They're going to sit out there starting now?" It was snowing! [Someone said], "Well they want to be up close." I told Robin Williams to go tell them he'd save their seats, and he did it! He wrote his name on their chairs so they could go back inside. He was fun like that.

Did you imagine you'd still be a comedian 25 years later?
All the people I know who have been doing it forever didn't plan on it. It was an accident. I didn't know it was a job. I knew Johnny Carson was on TV and I remember my parents watching Buddy Hackett. I knew he was in Las Vegas. I didn't know you could make it a job without being a TV host. Nobody tells you these things. We were given like eight job options. When I was 24, I was like, "Look at all these other jobs. How come nobody told me about this?" I always joke with my brother, "What if I go apply for a job and don't put that I'm a comedian? There would be a 25-year hole." I'd have to tell them I went into a coma like in a Lifetime movie. I woke up from the coma and here I am looking for a job. It's too late for me. I would just take the money I saved up and open a corner bar and watch sports.

NATALIE BRASINGTON

The Opening of Shinn Time

Playwright Christopher Shinn was born in Hartford, raised in Wethersfield and returns often despite calling New York City home for many years. His plays, which have garnered nominations and awards, including the Obie Award in playwriting and the Robert Chelsey Award, pull themes from his personal life, but he has never set a play in his hometown until now.

His latest work, *An Opening in Time*, is based in a fictionalized version of his hometown, and will premiere at The Hartford Stage in September. Not only is this the first play he's written so close to home, but it will also be his first Connecticut premiere.

"The first time I was in [that theater], I must have been 10 years old. I have very powerful memories," says Shinn. "I feel like I wrote this play from a sense of personal history, [and it is premiering] in a theatre where I have a deep sense of personal history. For me, it will be a very powerful experience 30 years after I first sat in those seats."

An Opening in Time tells the story of Anne, a retired schoolteacher, who moves back to her suburban town in central Connecticut after years of being away. She finds

| CONTINUED ON **PAGE 24** |

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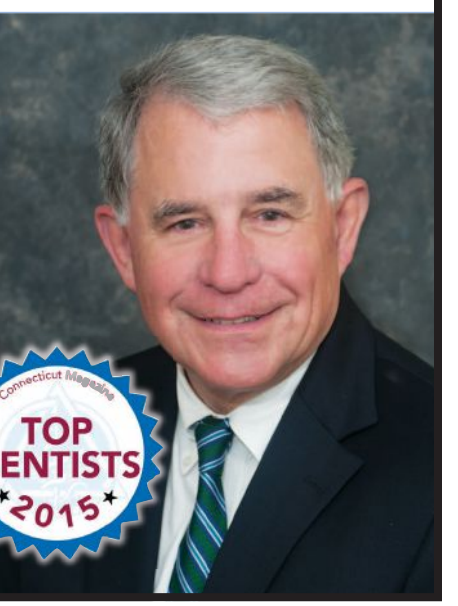
DR. ERNEST REAMER HAS BEEN PRACTICING GENERAL DENTISTRY IN THE VILLAGE OF CENTERBROOK, IN ESSEX, SINCE 1982. He is honored to work with his daughter, Dr. Carolyn Reamer Blicharz, who joined the practice in 2008. Their state-of-the-art office offers all aspects of general dentistry, including the treatment of children.

Dr. Reamer has a special interest in complex restorative cases and cosmetic dentistry. His expertise includes using veneers and crowns to restore smiles. "I have a desire to produce dentistry at the highest level and not settle for the average," he says. "It's challenging and the most gratifying thing I do." Dr. Reamer works closely with a number of area specialists who often refer challenging cases to him, and says he's privileged to call a number of these colleagues patients. He credits his experienced staff with creating a warm office environment where preventive dental care and its relationship to overall health are stressed. "The best part of dentistry," he says, "has always been the person-to-person interaction."



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For more information, see page 86

Get Ready To Rock Out . . . Acoustically.

The second annual **New England Acoustic Music Festival** takes over downtown Putnam on Saturday, Sept. 26, from 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. The roadway in front of the Courthouse Bar and Grill at 121 Main St. will be closed to vehicular traffic and the stage will be set for ten acoustic performers, who will strum, sing and stomp their way through a day of festivities. The event culminates with a performance by headliner Caravan of Thieves, a Bridgeport-based gypsy jazz and folk band who will be returning to Connecticut for the show shortly after concluding a tour of the United Kingdom.

Chris Coderre, president of Fat Cats Events & Marketing, partnered with the Courthouse Bar and Grill last year to start the festival. "It's always been my dream to do a music festival," Coderre says. He felt like Putnam provided the ideal location. "It's pretty lively right now especially with the arts, so it kind of seemed like a natural fit for the area."

Since the festival takes place in the heart of downtown, Coderre decided to go with acoustic music so that it would not be too loud for Putnam businesses to operate. When it comes to the performers, he strives to book a mix of emerging artists who people probably have never heard of, along with established artists. In addition, each act must have roots in the region. "We want every single one of our artists to have some connection to New England," he says. In some cases that means band members actually live somewhere in New England; in other instances the musicians grew up here, or studied nearby. Several of last year's performers were graduates of Berklee College of Music in Boston.

Singer songwriter Ryan Montbleau was the headliner at the inaugural festival. Coderre is excited about Caravan of Thieves taking on that role this year. "We're really looking forward to them. Last year most of our acts were solo acts, people who basically were up there either with their keyboard or guitar," Coderre says. "To cap the night off with a full band that's as energetic as Caravan of Thieves is going to be a really big draw and is going to get everybody up on their feet by the end of the night."

Though the festival is a ticketed event ($15 in advance; $20 at the door), re-entry is allowed and festivalgoers are encouraged to explore downtown between acts.

As far as food goes, in addition the Courthouse Bar and Grill, several other Putnam restaurants operate stands within the festival. "The food that we serve is not your cookie-cutter festival food. These are legitimate restaurants that serve really high-quality food," he says. "We're trying to make it an experience, it's not just about the music. It is, of course, centered around the music, but it is something where people can come and enjoy an entire day in downtown Putnam."

neamf.com | E.O. |

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For more information, see page 86

'The Matt' Gets a Makeover

In downtown Waterbury, amid the many decaying examples of the city's bustling industrial past, sits the Mattatuck Museum, which has been dedicated to preserving and celebrating the area's rich history and art. The building, which was converted into a museum more than 30 years ago, lends itself to the overall mission, but has also posed unique challenges with an awkward configuration and dated finishings.

This year, The Matt's art galleries and common spaces received a facelift thanks to a long-term strategic plan implemented by the museum's board and director Bob Burns.

"When I arrived at the museum three-and-a-half years ago, the marching orders from the board were to step up exhibitions and the art part of our mission," explains Burns. "We've tried to do that thoughtfully, while not forgetting the history part as well. There had to be a thoughtful plan that was manageable for us to help draw more people in."

The museum contracted Ann Beha Architects of Boston to execute a space-use survey to see what was working and not, and to establish potential changes and expansions for the future. In February, The Matt closed its second-floor art galleries and embarked on a $50,000 renovation that included refinishing the deteriorating floors and creating movable walls in the exhibition space.

"Upstairs we have the richness of those giant rooms but it can be a little overwhelming," says Burns. "People want to have an intimate experience with art. Really large rooms can be in the complete opposition of that experience. We wanted to create slightly more intimate and flexible spaces."

The expansive galleries are now divided with easily movable walls, creating smaller areas for observation and space to display artwork. The floors are now covered with sleek, shining hardwood instead of the dated burgundy carpet that had filled the space since the late 1980s.

"When they arrived they didn't have the money to make the floors nicer. They chose to fill in spaces where the floors had failed with plywood and then cement on top and covered it with carpet," says Burns.

The new hardwood, which was installed by Dilley Floors of Southbury, makes a huge difference in the rooms. "The galleries are now more inviting and visually appealing," says museum curator Dr. Cynthia Roznoy.

Expanding the museum's art collection to include American art, while still emphasizing Connecticut art, was also an important part of the strategic plan. The curatorial team is "focusing on filling holes in our collection," says Burns. The team plans to rotate exhibits frequently to inspire people to visit more often.

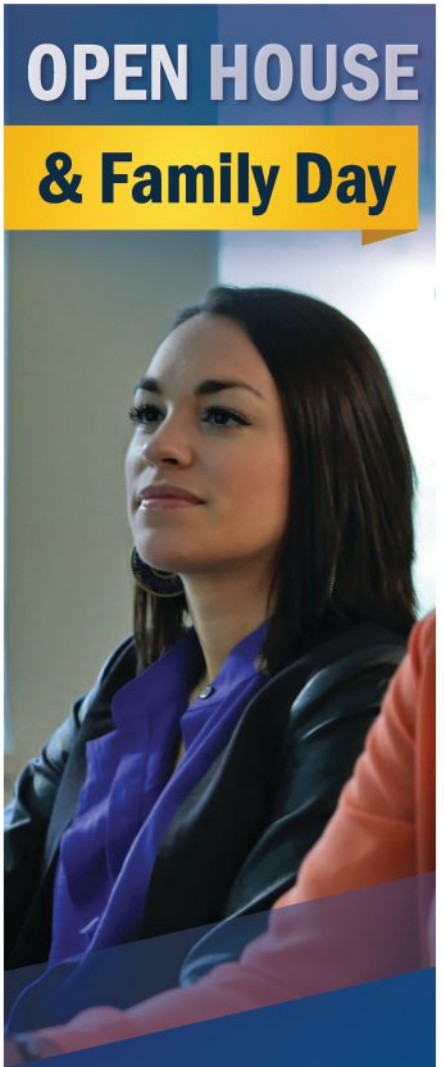
The Matt has an exciting lineup coming including a first-time retrospective of renowned sculptor Don Gummer's preliminary large-scale drawings alongside his finished wall-relief sculpture. *Spirit of Place: Don Gummer, Drawings and Wall Reliefs, 1975-2015* runs in the second-floor gallery through Sept. 13.

There are shows taking place downstairs as well in two newly created exhibition rooms directly off the lobby. The Matt's first video exhibition *Chance, Control & Collaboration* showcases four works in the Munger Room through Sept. 6. *Unsettled Identities*, which features the work of five artists over time, is on display in The Lab through Sept. 13.

"We converted those first-floor spaces into gallery spaces [so that] there's a moment you walk into the museum and you know you're in the museum," says Burns.

Additional plans include interior renovations on the first floor, including the possible relocation of a classroom. *Love, Andy: Collections from the Andy Warhol Museum*, which takes an intimate look at the famed artist, will run Nov. 19-Feb. 7.

mattatuckmuseum.org | K.H. |



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| shinn |

CONTINUED FROM **PAGE 21**

a number of things have changed—Dunkin' Donuts franchises are now everywhere, the local high school is putting on a production of *Rent* and a long-lost friendship suddenly reappears in a new guise.

It's not an autobiographical play and doesn't tell a similar story to Shinn's own. It's more the feelings, memories and places of the playwright's history he hoped to capture in the story.

"[This play] was a lot more personal, more exposed," Shinn says. "When you are a child, you take in what's around you, but you don't have any context for it. It is reality. It is life. The landscape of the play is drawn from my earliest memories of life. To go back in myself, it's a mix of emotions. There's a melancholy for a time lost, a way you used to look at the world."

Like many of his other plays, the resulting story is one of subtlety and nuance. The Hartford Stage's website describes *An Opening in Time* as "a moving play about finding connections in a shifting world."

Shinn decided to premiere this personal work at the Hartford Stage mostly because of director Oliver Butler, who wanted to do it in a short turnaround. That was appealing to the playwright.

"There's a long process of trying to find a famous actor who will get investors. You build from the star outward. I had been doing that for a while," says Shinn, whose plays have starred Pablo Schreiber, Allison Pill and Eddie Redmayne, among others. "There were some exciting possibilities, but nothing was gathering momentum. Butler asked to do the play and asked for six months from when we were talking—most theaters plan a year or a year-and-a-half in advance.

"I just felt like I wanted to do this play," he continues. "When you're going after big celebrities, a lot can go wrong. I just want to be in the rehearsal room and on the stage. That's the most important thing to me."

An Opening in Time will debut at The Hartford Stage on Sept. 17 and run through Oct. 11.

Being that the play takes place in the region it will be performed, Shinn hopes the story and the feelings behind it ring true for the audience. He wants the audience to walk away with new emotions—the same thing he wishes for all of his plays.

"I focus on the feeling," says Shinn. "That means something authentic happened, if you have a feeling you never quite had before. There's something original on the stage. That's the most exciting thing about a new play, it's new."

hartfordstage.org | K.H. |

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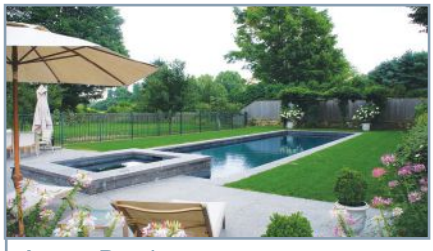

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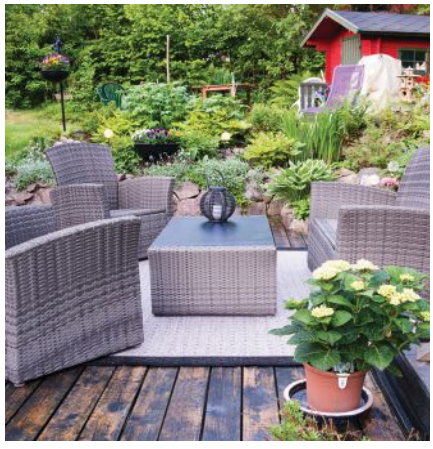

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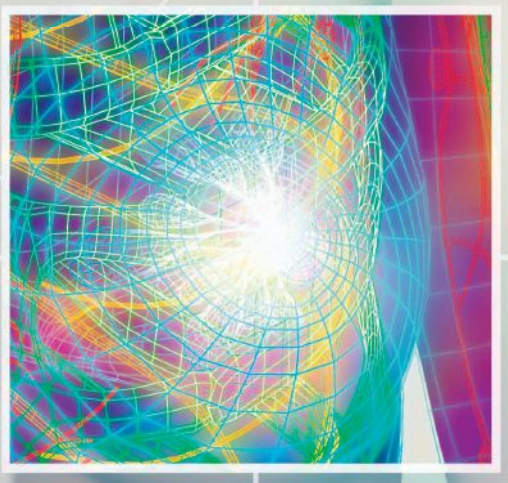

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For more information, see page 86

Annamarie Rivera displays a pair of her old jeans from when she was 180 pounds heavier.

A Big Loss

THROUGH EXERCISE AND EATING HEALTHIER, ANNAMARIE RIVERA LOST NEARLY 200 POUNDS WHILE GAINING THOUSANDS OF INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS. NOW SHE'S TRYING TO HELP OTHERS LOSE WEIGHT.

BY ERIK OFGANG

Annamarie Rivera wouldn't admit she had a problem, not consciously anyway. The Trumbull native and current Derby resident's issues with weight gain started when she was in high school. In her early twenties it got worse. By 2007, she weighed nearly 300 lbs.; by 2010, she was more than 400 lbs.

"I was eating horribly," she says. "Fast food five, six days a week, everything fried, carbs, sugar. I wouldn't go near a vegetable or a fruit if you paid me to."

On the surface she was fine with her unhealthy lifestyle. "I didn't care, I didn't see the problem," she says. But looking back, she wonders if she was in denial. "I think I knew I had a problem but I just didn't want to admit it. There were times when I would feel embarrassed about my weight." Such as when she couldn't put a seatbelt on during a flight, or when roller coaster restraints wouldn't fit her.

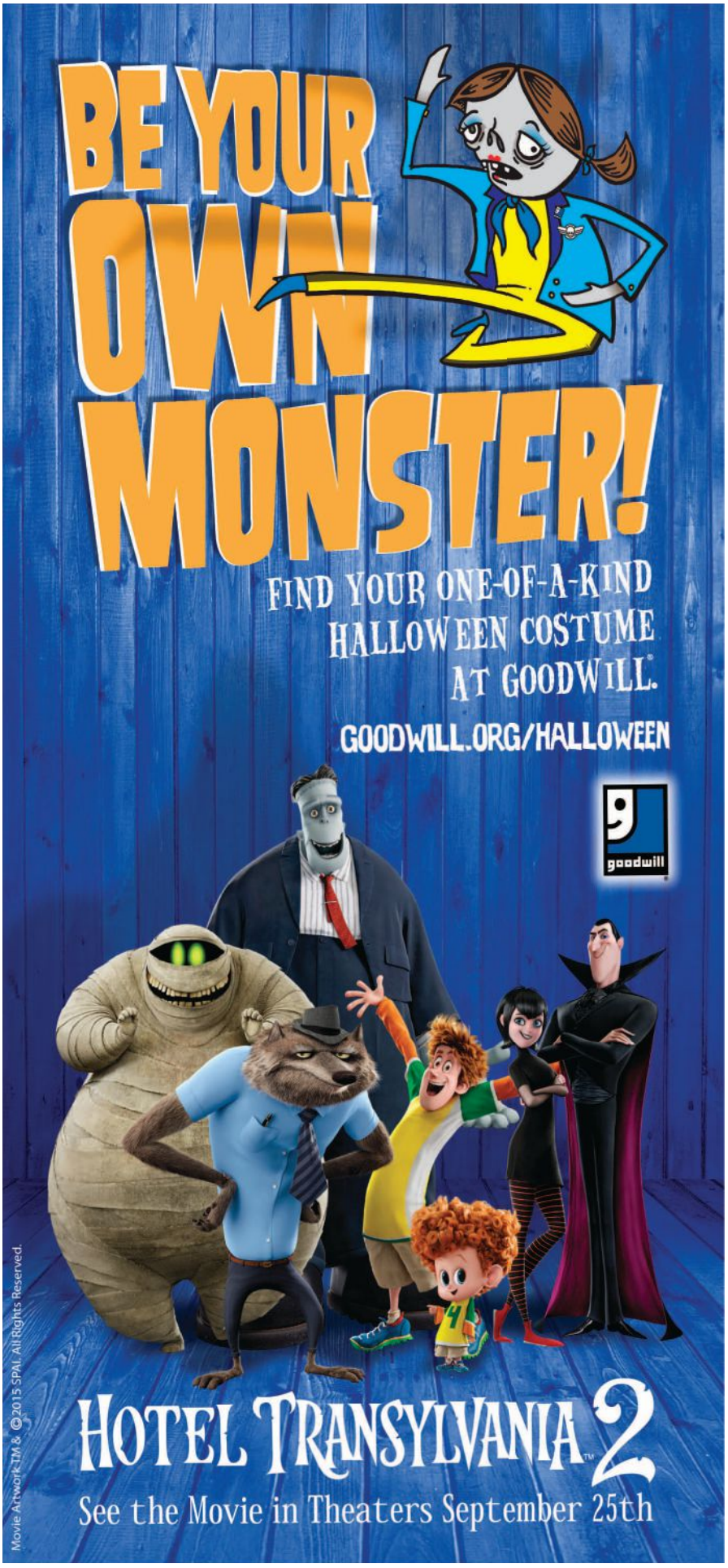
There were also emotional side effects. At her heaviest, Rivera was embroiled in an abusive, unhealthy relationship. She would often use food as an outlet. "It was emotional eating," she says. "If you're an emotional eater, you eat when you're upset, you eat when you're happy. You're angry, you eat."

The desire to lose weight came instantly, seemingly out of nowhere. One day on the way home from work, she passed a Planet Fitness and on the spur of the moment, decided to stop in. "To this day I am not sure what made me do that so randomly," she writes on her website.

That unplanned decision to sign up at the gym was the spark Rivera needed for a truly spectacular turnaround. Within a few years she lost more than 180 lbs., shrinking from a size 28 to a size 12.

Along the way she's chronicled her efforts on Instagram, amassing more than 44,000 followers. She's also shared her story in several Connecticut publications and with *Women's Health* magazine**.** Rivera's goal is to inspire others and show them that if she can do it, so can they.

The journey was not easy; after that first flash of desire to lose weight, Rivera needed incredible determination. In place of junk food, weight loss became her new obsession. At the gym for the first time, she learned ex-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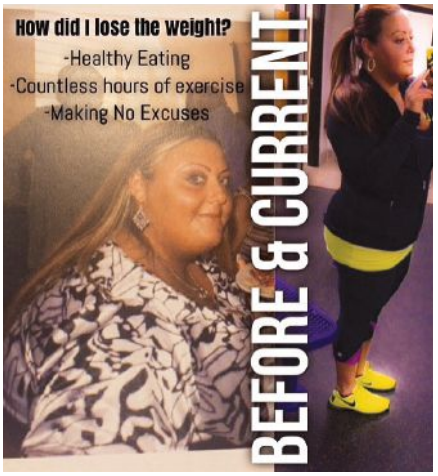


Annamarie uses social media like Instagram (above) to inspire her followers and inform them about healthy ways to lose weight and get fit.

ercises by watching other people. She read about nutrition on the Internet and found healthy recipes on Pinterest, channeling her obsession with unhealthy food into an obsession with healthy food and exercise.

"The gym became my new addiction—I wanted to go everyday. I didn't want to go home," she says. "My main interest was losing weight. I would literally miss birthday parties to go to the gym."

She also made radical life changes, gathering the strength to walk away from her abusive relationship—a step she says was surprisingly easy. "I thought it would have been a lot harder but you just build up that mental strength, you figure out your self worth," she says. "Fighting and yelling and dealing with all of that, it's not happiness. It's not life."

She also stopped seeing many of her friends as she needed to break the cycle of unhealthy living. "You no longer have the same interests. After work I was going to the gym, they wanted to go to happy hour," she recalls. Rivera gave up alcohol, not because she had alcoholic tendencies but because of the calories. "That was probably one of my hardest things, to stop drinking," she says.

Despite the difficulty, Rivera stuck with it. Her body's radical transformation has inspired the staff at the Planet Fitness she goes to. "Annamarie really has become a kind of a celebrity in our Trumbull facility. She came in trying to make a life change," says Matt Wilcox, vice president of marketing for Planet Fitness in Connecticut. "As we've been a small part of her journey, we've really seen a transformation to the point where her positive outlook on life has been contagious throughout our gym. She's almost become a life coach to other people in the gym without even meaning to be."

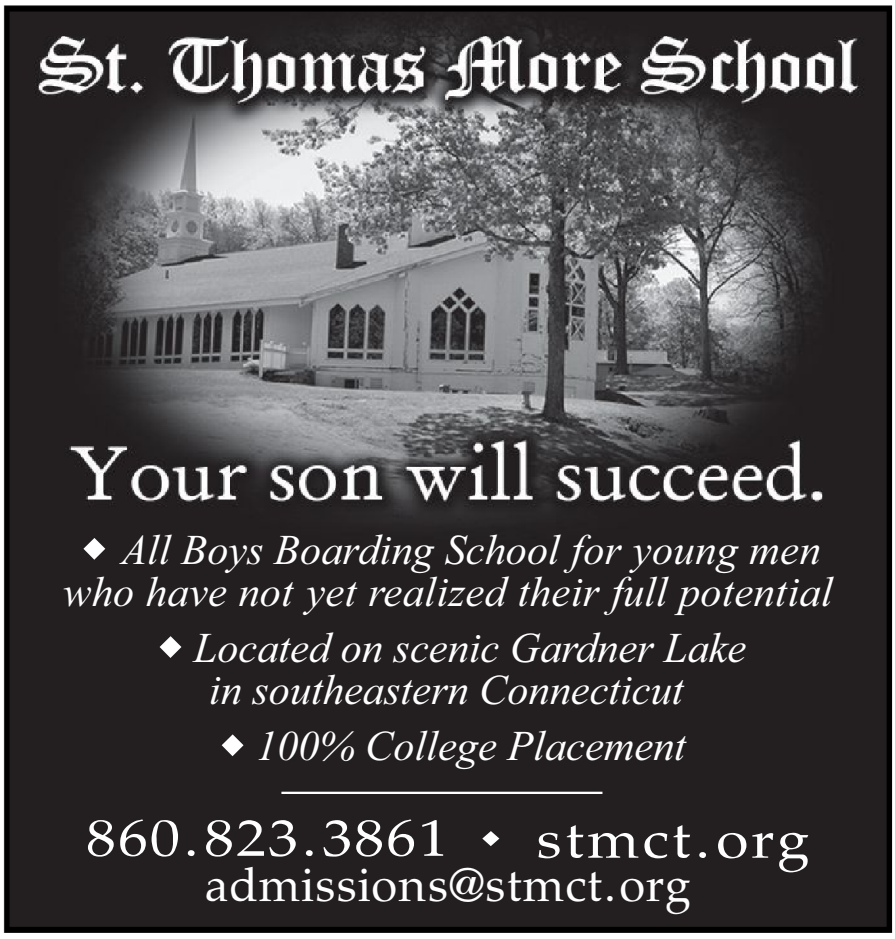
He adds: "The Planet Fitness model is built around being a judgment-free zone. Everyone's goal isn't to lose 200 pounds or to run the Boston Marathon. [Our gyms provide a place where people can be] comfortable working out and achieving whatever their fitness goals may be."

At her best, Rivera was down to 196 lbs. in 2012 but then she got in a car accident and gained back 50 lbs. She's since lost much of that weight again and today is just a bit over 200 lbs. She still visits the gym most days, watches her diet carefully and is hoping to continue to lose weight.

In addition to her own health, a passion of hers is helping others to lose weight. She recently took a course to become certified as a personal trainer and her website contains insightful weight-loss tips.

According to Rivera, the first steps to losing weight are making it a priority and "Not making excuses. Consistency is so important. No matter how much time you don't have, or how much money you don't have. You have to make the time," she says.

Even when someone commits to exercise, she believes they may overlook the dieting component. "I like to say, 'You can't outrun your fork,'" she explains. "You can work out—and I know people who do work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Who will make the list of 2016 Five Star Real Estate Agents?

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out 20 hours a week—and they eat horribly and there's no result. They say that weight is lost in the kitchen and bodies are transformed in the gym."

Another common mistake people make is to reward themselves with food. "People say, 'Oh my god, I lost three pounds, so I'm going to reward myself by having a large pizza,'" says Rivera.

Other problems Rivera sees include yo-yo dieting (continual cycles of dieting and weight loss followed by weight gain) and adherence to obsession diets, such as the ever-popular 'no carb' diets. Instead Rivera suggests a sensible, healthy diet plan. "Stick with high protein, low carbs, cut your sugars and sodium," she says.

When it comes to approaching someone else about the adverse health effects of their weight, Rivera advises treading carefully, making sure to avoid negative phrasing like, "You need to do something, your pants no longer fit you." Instead, she says to approach someone as a caring friend or family member, talk to them about health and maybe point them in the direction of someone who can help and inspire them.

Rivera is often approached by people asking her to talk to their friends or family members. She is always happy to help if she

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THOMSON REUTERS

Rivera (pictured here at Planet Fitness in Trumbull) credits her transformation to her unwavering commitment to a healthy lifestyle, including a nutritious diet and time spent in the gym.

can. "I can't believe how many people are truly inspired and how many people in this area truly need help. It sounds so cliché but motivating others has kept me motivated," she says.

As for herself, these days Rivera is doing great. In May 2014 she was married to Angell Rivera, a man she became close with during the height of her weight-loss obsession. "When he met me I was so focused on the gym. I really didn't think that anybody could get through to me," she says.

On the home screen of her smartphone, Rivera has a picture of herself at her heaviest. "I look at that picture all day so it keeps me motivated," she says. As does a wish to remain healthy—she's learned over the years why that's so important. "If your health is not perfect your relationship with your kids, your family, your wife, your husband—none of that will be as good unless your health is 100 percent," she says.

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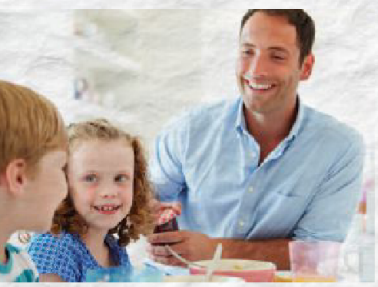
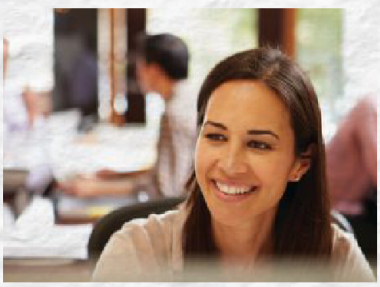

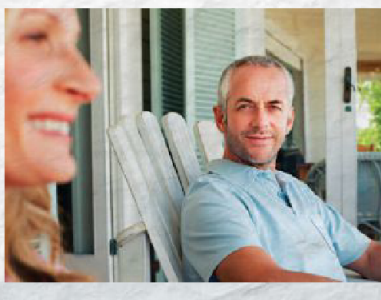

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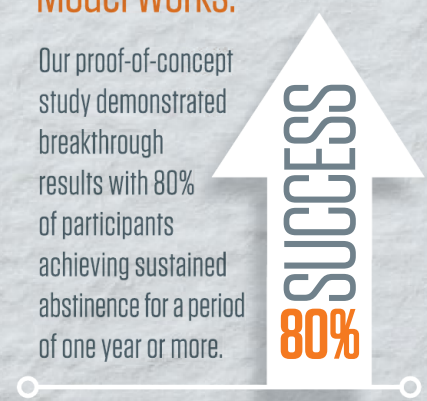

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He Almost Died.

This Breakthrough Saved His Life.

In 2012, Matt Eacott hit rock bottom…again. The Avon Connecticut native in his mid 30s had spent the previous decade going in and out of rehab facilities trying unsuccessfully to kick his addiction—first to prescription painkillers and later to heroin. He had gone to more than a dozen in-patient treatment centers, some of them long-term.

Along the way he carried with him the usual addiction baggage: problems with his family, brief periods of sobriety followed by relapses and frequent drug related run-ins with the law, including arrests, one of which resulted in a year-long sentence in the Cheshire Correctional Facility. After his latest relapse, it looked like he was heading back to prison, possibly for a whole lot longer. Eacott had violated his parole and was facing a five-year sentence.

At this point Eacott had all but lost hope. In a meeting with a longtime therapist, Dr. Joyce Kamanitz, M.D., F.A.P.A, he recalls throwing his arms up in the air asking, "What am I going to try this time." His therapist had an unexpected answer and said, "You know what, I have a very good [friend] and he's started something that's different and I think could really work for you." 1

According to Dr. Kamanitz, M.D., F.A.P.A., Aware Recovery Care's innovative new treatment program likely saved her client's life. " Aware Recovery Care helped my patient when nothing else led to sustained sobriety. I treated this young man for several years for opioid abuse/dependency. He is from a lovely family and is himself a smart, funny, thoughtful person. We worked together with medication, psychotherapy, outpatient substance abuse programs, inpatient substance abuse programs, in the U.S. and abroad. None of these treatments led to lasting abstinence.

Finally, he was treated in the remarkable Aware Recovery Care program. He has had sustained sobriety since he began the program 3 years ago. He now has a full-time job that he is actually enjoying and is engaged in for the first time in his life. He is also getting married in several months!

I believe the reason for this success is that Aware Recovery Care is designed to help people in their real lives. People who 'graduate' from other programs then have to transfer what they learn in a program to the normal events of their life. Aware Recovery Care works with people in their homes and work environments, helping them with the moment-to-moment issues that arise. This approach decreases impulsive relapse and encourages reliance on self and on appropriate others for help."

To learn more, visit www.awarerecoverycare.com or call 203.779.5799.

1 Excerpted from Innovative Connecticut Addiction Recovery Program Has High Success Rate, Connecticut Magazine. January 2015

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All Aglow

Enlightened Fairfielder adds new purpose to old treasures

By KATE HARTMAN

A cluttered basement. A small work table adorned with odds and ends. Tools and machines, some bought, some gifted. In a lot of ways, Jason Aleksa's basement in his beautifully updated Fairfield home looks like many other basements—disorganized and yet wholly American.

But this subterranean space is filled with more unexpected treasures than most—antique kerosene lamps, bell jars, fans, a trombone, an old projector, a headlight alignment machine, a motorcycle and shelves lined with apothecary bottles. Look anywhere and you're bound to stumble upon something extraordinary. The Aleksa basement is an antiques shopper's dream with discoveries tucked everywhere, and that's precisely how the 33-year-old

Jason Aleksa (at left) repurposes all sorts of antique and found items into unique lamps.

acquired these items; scouring antiques shops and markets, picking up odds and ends along the way.

Each piece is impressive on its own with an interesting backstory, but that is only the beginning for Aleksa. He has big ideas for everything he purchases. He turns his second-hand finds into unique lamps and home décor through his company Stonehill Design. New life—and light—is breathed into each antique courtesy of the young business owner's creativity.

Every lamp is different. A warm glow may emanate from the blades of a steel desk fan or the earpiece of a rotary telephone. At once an original art piece and a functional device, Aleksa believes in keeping the antiques as intact as possible.

So how did the investment banker turn into an artisan and amateur electrician? The answer is experimentation and history.

Aleksa comes from a long line of men who "made things with their hands to put food on the table." His grandfather owned a machine shop in Fairfield, which was eventually taken over by his father. The business moved to Stratford and was shuttered a few years ago so his parents could enjoy retirement on the Cape, but the groundwork was laid for their son by that point.

"My dad always made stuff. When I bought this house I started to make stuff to

fill it," says Aleksa looking around his living room on a Monday night in July. "We bought this monster couch and we needed a big coffee table, so I built one. I built the fireplace screen. I hand-hammered the handles myself. I've always been good at figuring stuff out."

That may be a bit of an understatement, but Aleksa is a rather modest guy with a large, affable smile. Right now, the main focus of his business is lamps but he has never taken an electrical class. His father was an electrician, so just like the rest of his knowledge, it was inherited. And what he doesn't know he teaches himself.

In a nod to his father's influence on his life and his business, Aleksa repurposed his dad's old band name, The Stonehill Trio, into the name of his business, Stonehill Design. He founded the company about three years ago.

His first lamp was a wooden base with an large elegant bulb standing upward covered by a glass dome. It sold quickly at an artisan's show and Aleksa was inspired to try other items. Some of his best sellers are his antique camera lamps, radio speaker lamps and fan lamps.

"I have a good idea of what I want [the lamps] to look like," he says. "It's on a piece-by-piece basis."

The process of creating a new lamp begins with the discovery. At this point, there are a few items he is always targeting because they are good sellers on his website and Etsy store, like the cameras and kerosene lamps.

According to Aleksa, the trouble with antiques is that they aren't reliably found or consistently priced. You really do have to search, and while you're looking, so are other people.

"Kerosene lamps, those can be collector's items," he says. "The radio speakers are getting harder to find and they're not cheap. It definitely can be expensive because they have value."

In fact, the cheapest part of each lamp is the light bulb. He purchases reproduction bulbs from a distributor, selecting the perfect bulb for each piece.

Once an antique is purchased, Aleksa sketches out what he wants the lamp to look like in his notebook. The tiny sketches match up surprisingly well to the final products. Very few times does he have to drastically stray from his original ideas. He is good at bringing his imaginations to life.

"I don't restore the antiques. I just clean them up. I knock the wasps' nests out of them," he says with a laugh. "I want people to see it's old and rusty. I don't want them to look new.

"I like to leave them in usable condition if I can," he goes on. "Like with the camera lamps, I leave all the camera parts. You could feasibly take apart the light and use the camera, 'cause why not?"

One of his recent favorite creations was a vintage Toy and Joy gumball machine. Aleksa filled the front of the machine with old marbles to resemble gumballs. An LED light illuminated the marbles from behind, giving the lamp a soft, multicolored glow. For that lamp, he left the crank mechanism intact so it could theoretically still be used as a gumball machine.

"That one came out really cool," he admits. He sold the lamp at a market in Boston, and has already crafted a second one.

Other unique projects have included a lamp made out of a deer antler, which was secured to a wooden base and had bulbs protruding from the different antler points, and a pesticide sprayer that had a light sticking out the nozzle.

Aleksa says he doesn't get attached to the

Converted vintage radios are best sellers.

A Stonehill Design display is all aglow.

pieces he makes. With the exception of one lamp his wife claimed as her favorite, he plans to sell everything he makes.

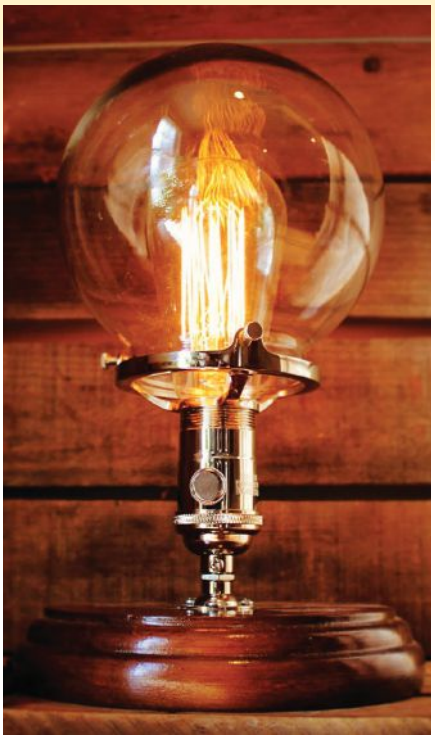
Many of Stonehill Design's sales are made at different artisan markets and festivals throughout the region. It's a lot of work packing up his products, driving to the location, setting up, selling all day, tearing down and driving home, but Aleksa says it's worth it.

Up until recently, he operated out of a classic grey Volkswagen bus. He would pile his lamps and display tables to the top of the van and roll on to his next show. On the way home from his first market in Torrington in the winter of 2013, the bus got a flat tire on the highway. "The profits from that show bought four new tires for the bus," he remembers. Unfortunately the bus died, though it still sits in his driveway. He has moved onto a white panel van, which sports the Stonehill Design logo and has more space.

Aleksa will travel a long distance for a show if he thinks it's worth it. It can be a tiring 12-hour day for him. Unlike other vendors, there's more involved with his displays than just plopping his products on a table. He has to be located close enough to a socket and run extension cords so he can light all of his lamps.

His table always stands out, simply by virtue of glowing, but he's also offering something different to shoppers. His products tend to attract a lot of men, and he gets good feedback.

"I think the people running the shows appreciate something that is male-oriented,"



says Aleksa, though he doesn't make the lamps specifically for men. The lamps fit into the industrial aesthetic that is popular right now, so customers run the gamut. Generally they are about half men and half women.

He has also started bringing other products to the shows like coasters, clocks and concrete planters with succulents to give shoppers options. Perhaps they aren't in the market for a lamp, but they could be interested in something a little smaller.

"It's been good for me to get my name out there," Aleksa says of the markets. "A lot of my custom work has come from the shows."

Stonehill Design has been contracted by Source Coffee in Bridgeport to fabricate a large chandelier he jokingly calls the "industrial disco ball." He's in the planning stages of that project. He has also been contracted to build lamps for Aspetuck Brew Lab and furniture for Harborview Market in Black Rock.

Aleksa does a fair bit of custom furniture building for clients but he would like to expand that part of his business. He recently made a television console from the reclaimed floorboards of a 100-year-old house on top of a welded steel frame. He has plans to make a side table from a thick slice of an oak tree he got from a friend.

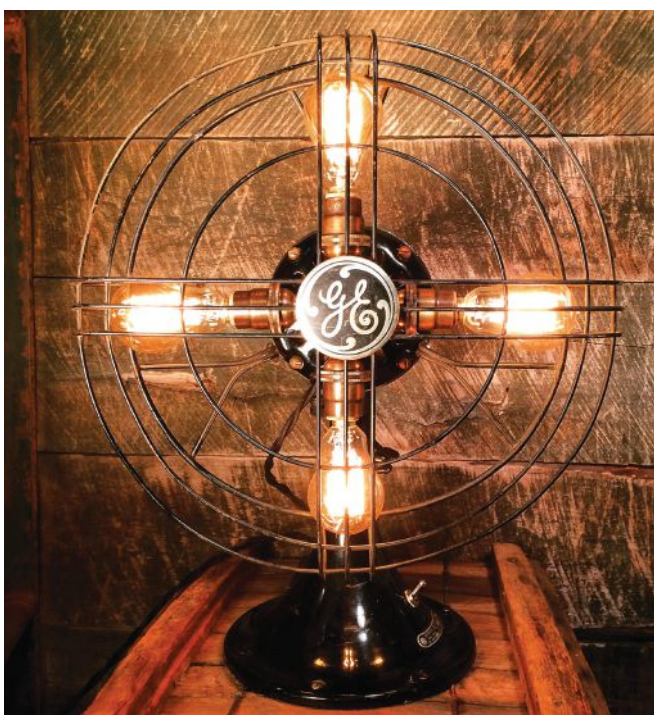
Right now it's a bit of a juggling act between his 9-to-5 job and these side projects, but the end goal is to make Stonehill Design his full-time occupation.

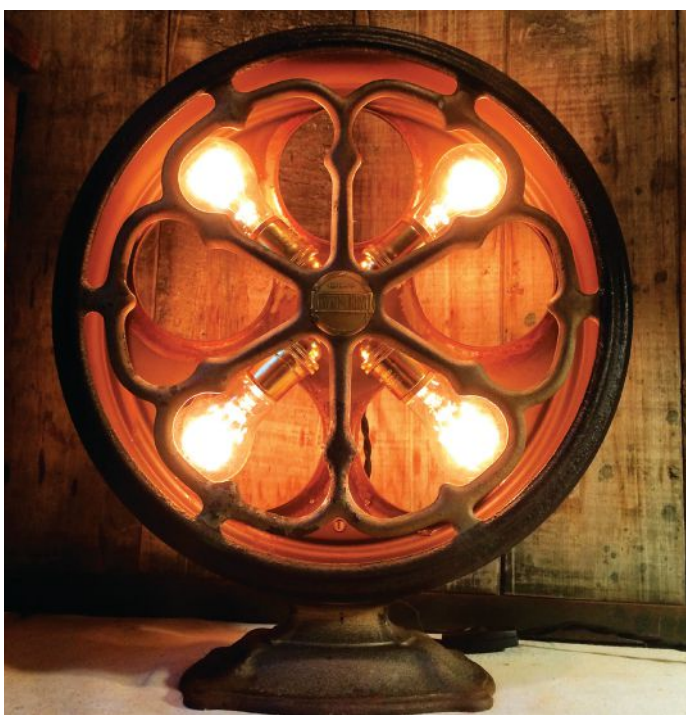
"Each year I've been going to more shows and selling more pieces," says Aleksa. "I'm trying to expand."

With a basement full of untouched antiques and plenty of ideas floating around in his head, there is certainly room for growth.

Find Stonehill Design at the American Field Pop-Up Market in Boston on Sept. 12-13, the Black Rock Artisan Market in Bridgeport on Sept. 26, the American Field Pop-Up Market in Washington, D.C., on Oct. 17-18 and the American Field Pop-Up Market in Brooklyn, N.Y., on Nov. 21-22. Lamp prices range from about $150 to $300.

stonehilldesign.bigcartel.com





WELCOME TO THE 18TH EDITION OF BEST OF CONNECTICUT, our annual compilation of all the things we think make our state such a special place. This year we've added a few new fun categories while shaving others away to give a fresh look at our state.

As always, we invite you to share your thoughts and tell us about places we may have missed. Like you, we're interested in exploring where we live and finding the best it has to offer. Enjoy!

FOOD &

BEAR'S SMOKEHOUSE

JULIE BIDWELL

DRINK

BARBECUE

Bear's Smokehouse Barbecue

Hartford and Windsor
(860) 724-3100
bearsbbq.com

Owner Jamie "The Bear" McDonald was once the No. 1-ranked Independent Competitive Eater by All Pro Eating and he knows a thing or two about barbecue. Since opening, Bear's slow-cooked Kansas City-style ribs, brisket and burnt ends (our favorite!) have helped to put Connecticut barbecue on the map and continue to inspire cravings statewide.

BEER

OEC Brewing

Oxford
(203) 295-2831
oecbrewing.com

It may be an acquired taste but the wild yeast-based sour beers offered at OEC are among the most interesting and best tasting examples of a difficult-to-get-right style. Opened last summer, OEC quickly joined breweries like New England Brewing Co. and Beer'd Brewing Co. at the top of many beer nerds' state rankings. Today, it produces some of the most unique beer in Connecticut and beyond.

BREAD

Chabaso

New Haven
(203) 562-9007
chabaso.com

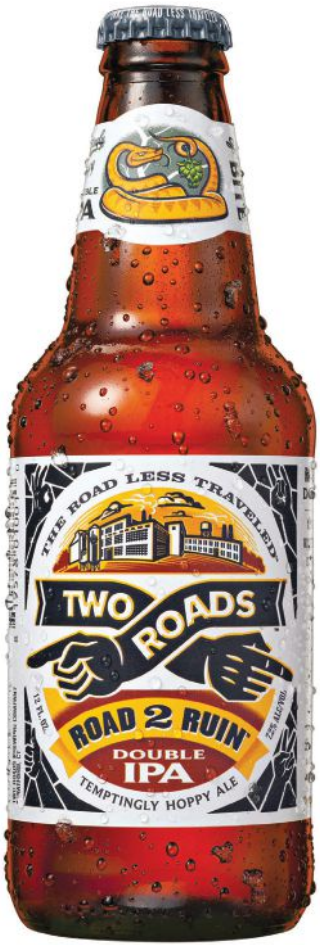
For more than 30 years, Chabaso's ciabattas, baguettes, boules, rolls and loaves have been "hearth-baked in European ovens according to Old World traditions," making for terrific bread featuring a thin, chewy crust and soft, tasty inside—perfect for dipping in soup, sopping up gravy and making memorable sandwiches. Or just eating on its own.

BREWERY

Two Roads Brewing Co.

Stratford, (203) 335-2010
tworoadsbrewing.com

When it opened in 2012, Two Roads made Connecticut a destination for beer lovers. This gigantic, eye-catching brewery is a must-visit haven for hardcore and casual beer lovers. Take a tour and enjoy some samples, or hang out in the taproom overlooking the sprawling brewing space. Either way, Two Roads provides a "beer-cation" experience that is difficult to beat.



TWO ROADS BREWING CO.

BURGER: GOURMET BURGER BAR

Prime 16

New Haven and Orange
(203) 782-1616
prime16.com

Although known for its impressive craft beer selection, we love Prime 16 for the thick, juicy 8-oz. burgers, which are served on brioche rolls and are made from all-natural Angus beef with no added hormones or antibiotics and that was fed from non-GMO all-vegetarian feeds. More than a dozen varieties are offered, including bison, lamb, salmon and vegetarian options.

BURGER: ROADSIDE STAND

GoldBurgers

Newington
(860) 665-0478
goldburgers.com

GoldBurgers is a Connecticut fast food joint with a product worth waiting for. Full of juicy goodness and topped with a creative smorgasbord of ingredients these big (with a capital B) burgers are all made with locally sourced beef. Try the venue's namesake, the GoldBurger, a monster of a burger with two patties and potato chips.

CAKE

Sweet Maria's

Waterbury, (203) 755-3804
sweet-marias.com

This Waterbury palace of sweet-tooth creations bills itself as "not just another pretty cake" and more than lives up to that motto. For decades Sweet Maria's has been wowing all comers with a mouthwatering selection of cakes and features a different creation as "cake of the month" each month. Miss September is a decadent banana caramel offering.

SUGAR BAKERY

MILK HOUSE CHOCOLATES

HARDCORE SWEET CUPCAKE TRUCK

CATERER

Gourmet Galley

Stonington
(860) 415-9589
gourmet-galley.com

For more than 20 years, the staff of Gourmet Galley has been bringing its professional touch to events across Southeastern Connecticut, from picnics and cocktail parties to birthdays and retirement parties and all the other special events in between—the perfect fare for whatever your affair is.

CHOCOLATE

Milk House Chocolates

Goshen
(860) 309-2545
milkhousechocolates.net

Milk House Chocolates from Goshen's Thorn Crest Farm are about as local and homemade as you can get. Made with the milk from the farm's cows, husband-and-wife team Clint and Kimberly Thorn experiment with milk and cream combinations to ensure a superior product. Flavors include Mr. Ives's Mint and Intense Dark Chocolate Orange Truffle.

CLAM CHOWDER

S&P Oyster Company

Mystic
(860) 536-2674
sp-oyster.com

Simply put, S&P's chowder is sublime—plenty of tender clam and tasty potato chunks, served with oyster crackers and garnished with sliced scallions. If you like a little extra something, you can add "a skosh" of Harvey's Bristol Cream Sherry or Woodford Reserve Distiller's Select Kentucky Bourbon.

COFFEE HOUSE

Blue State

New Haven and other locations
(203) 787-9929
bluestatecoffee.com

Hip, sleek and modern without being pretentious, this local chain of coffee shops is a favorite of coffee connoisseurs. All coffee is fair trade, organic and shade grown, and Blue State has been involved with its growing process from seed to cup. Plus, each location offers a roomy inviting space to enjoy your java.

GREEN GRUNION

JEFF KAUFMAN

CUPCAKES

Sugar Bakery

East Haven
(203) 469-0815
thesugarbakery.com

Winners of Food Network's "Cupcake Wars," Sugar prides itself on pleasing all manner of sweet tooth with 30 varieties of gourmet cupcakes available daily. Some favorites: cannoli, red velvet, Oreo explosion, chocolate salted caramel, toasted almond, Reese's riot, white chocolate chip cheesecake and s'mores. Plus, there are gluten-free options—sweet!

DELI

Rein's Deli

Vernon
(860) 875-1344
reinsdeli.com

This old-school New York-style deli has been serving up flavorful food since the early 1970s and very little has changed. Hebrew National corned beef and pastrami, house-made salads and real Switzerland Swiss cheese are just some of the products featured here, all which make the deli's slogan, "The Taste of Quality is Long Remembered," ring true.

DOUGHNUTS

Neil's Donuts

Wallingford
(203) 269-4255
neilsdonuts.com

Neil's makes more than 30 varieties of doughnuts fresh daily, and has been serving New Haven County since 2001. In May, Neil's doughnuts wowed the *Connecticut Magazine* staff and emerged as the clear Best of winner after a series of doughnut taste tests leading up to National Doughnut Day.

FOOD TRUCK: SAVORY

Green Grunion

Danbury
(858) 926-6263

Owner Paul Mannion's San Diego-style burritos are tightly wrapped works of culinary art. In a Connecticut food truck scene rolling with great options, these burritos are the creations we crave most. Look for this brightly colored truck at its home base in Lake Kenosia Park in Danbury or check its Facebook page to see where the Grunion will be next; it's a regular at many local breweries.

FOOD TRUCK: SWEET

Hardcore Sweet Cupcakes

Oakville
(203) 768-0200
hardcoresweetcupcakes.com

Nicole and Jeremy Braddock have been traveling in their cupcake truck "Betty" and working from their Oakville shop since 2012, baking bold cupcakes like The Housewife—vanilla graham cracker crust cake with cherry pie filling and Swiss buttercream. Hardcore Sweet Cupcakes won an episode of the Food Network's "Cupcake Wars," so you know it's worth a try.

FRIED CHICKEN

Drumstik Bar-B-Q

Bridgeport
(203) 374-6151
drumstikbbq.com

Don't be fooled by "barbecue" in the name as this place specializes in awesome fried chicken. And after more than a half century of frying chicken, it stands to reason that Drumstik Bar-B-Q has it down perfect—a terrific coating made from a special family recipe that fries up crispy and seals in the juiciness.

UCONN DAIRY BAR

JEFF GONCI

GRILLED CHEESE

Caseus

New Haven, (203) 624-3373

caseusnewhaven.com

With over 100 unique artisan cheeses in-house, Caseus can easily be called New Haven's official fromagerie. The grilled cheese, whether enjoyed in the subterranean bistro or off Caseus' food truck, is a cut above with six different varieties of cheese melted between two buttery, crusty slices of bread.

HOT DOG

Doogie's

Newington, (860) 666-3647

doogieshotdoogs.com

At Doogie's each grilled dog is two feet long and can be slathered with toppings ranging from caramelized onions to sauerkraut and cheese to chili. Specialty dogs go above and beyond with flavor like the Boston Dog, which comes with baked beans and bacon or the College Dog with French fries on top.

ICE CREAM

Arethusa

Bantam, (860) 361-6600

arethusafarm.com

This designer ice cream (owned by the executives of Manolo Blahnik USA) tastes the way ice cream is supposed to—indulgent. Made onsite in the creamery (a historic former firehouse) from the milk of the farm's cows, Arethusa ice cream keeps it simple but delicious. Buy the company's milk, half-and-half, yogurt and handmade cheeses at the creamery, too.

ICE CREAM PARLOR

UConn Dairy Bar

Storrs, (860) 486-2634

dairybar.uconn.edu

Although we love visiting ice cream shops across the state, what sets UConn's Dairy Bar apart is being able to watch the ice cream being made (from the milk of UConn's own cows) right on the premises—production can be viewed through a large glass wall behind the counter. The Dairy Bar also has a cool, retro vibe and it's open year-round.

LOBSTER ROLL

Captain Scott's Lobster Dock

New London, (860) 439-1741

captscotts.com

Since Harry Perry "invented" the lobster roll in Milford during the 1920s, the debate has raged as to which is better—serving it hot (with drawn butter) or cold (with mayo). Captain Scott's offers it both ways and has mastered both versions, each of which features chunks of fresh lobster meat served on soft split buns.

CASEUS

NACHOS

Wood-n-Tap

Hartford and other locations
(860) 232-TAPS
woodntap.com

Behold the "monster": A mountain of melted cheese, diced tomatoes, jalapeños, black beans, shredded lettuce, sour cream and your choice of chicken or beef. Wood-n-Tap doesn't scrimp on any of its nachos—the "half" order is usually more than enough to feed three people—and there's always enough tortilla chips to scoop it all up.

PIE: BAKERY

Sixpence Pie Company

Southington, (860) 681-6118
sixpencepiecompany.com

The Sixpence Pie Company proves pies don't have to be sweet. The savory creations source ingredients from local farms and markets and are wholly satisfying in that old-timey kind of way. Bite into the Little Piggy, made with cider-braised pulled pork, or the Little Boy Blue with chicken, served with a decadent bleu cheese béchamel.

PIE: FARM/ORCHARD

Lyman Orchards

Middlefield, (860) 349-1793
lymanorchards.com

Lyman Orchards is a family-fun haven that hosts activities throughout the year. Pick fruit, explore the corn maze and don't forget to stop into the country store where you can pick up baked goods including award-winning pies. Delightfully homemade, sweet and satisfying, the signature apple pie is made from a traditional family recipe with two pounds of apples and spices.

DOOGIE'S

HAROLD DESCHENES III

JULIA JANE STUDIOS

PIZZA

Bufalina

Guilford, (203) 458-1377

bufalinact.com

No disrespect to the Godfathers of Connecticut pizza on New Haven's Wooster Street, but one visit to this itsy-bitsy pizzeria and you'll understand why we named it "a legend in the making" in our March pizza issue. Husband-and-wife team Melissa Pellegrino and Matteo Scialabba use special 00 double milled flour, San Marzano tomatoes and the best local cheeses, all of which help Bufalina shine.

RAW BAR

Oyster Club

Mystic, (860) 415-9266

oysterclubct.com

Let's be honest—who can truly love a raw bar that's nowhere near the water? At the Oyster Club, water is in its culinary veins. Plus, you can enjoy ice cold oysters, harvested from local waters and shucked specifically for you in the Treehouse, an outdoor bar and deck with a view of the Mystic River.

SOUP

Liquid Lunch

Shelton and Milford, (203) 926-6038

liquidlunchrestaurant.com

Where's your spoon? Hopefully, it's in a bowl of Liquid Lunch's finest—maybe the tomato basil, beef barley or any of the other daily staples, or one of the rotating specials, such as Gram's Chicken Noodle, chicken coconut or Moroccan stew. Culinary Institute of America grad Fred Bialek is always whipping up something new and tasty.

TACOS

Agave

Hartford, (860) 882-1557

agavehartford.com

With the largest tequila bar in the area, this Hartford cantina has it going on. But here we feature the tacos, which can be filled with chicken adobo, spicy beef, grilled vegetables, crispy fish, spicy BBQ pork or spicy chorizo sausage. The best part? You can mix and match fillings to get a ton of flavor.

TEA ROOM

The Green Teahouse

West Hartford and New Haven

(860) 232-6666

thegreenteahouse.com

Established in 1999, the range and richness the Green Teahouse shops offer includes all

types and varieties of loose tea, from white, green and black to fruit and herbal. There's also lunch and desserts, smoothies and even full Chinese tea ceremonies by appointment. It's a palace of all things tea and tea-related.

WINE SHOP: BOUTIQUE

The Wine Thief

New Haven, (203) 772-1944

thewinethief.com

Continually voted the best wine shop in New Haven, The Wine Thief's two locations (on Crown Street and Whitney Avenue) are highly curated—featuring well-made, valuable and stylish varieties—for true wine lovers. The retailer's knowledgeable staff strives to make the process of picking a bottle as comfortable as possible. Come in, explore and take home something delicious.

WINE SHOP: WAREHOUSE

Madison Wine Exchange

Madison, (203) 318-8663

madisonwinexchange.com

This place is huge, and that's exactly what you want in a warehouse shop. It's the spot to go for $8 bottles as well as highly prized varieties. Walking into the shoreline store can be overwhelming—aisles of bottles seem to go on forever—but don't fret. The staff is very knowledgeable and can easily point you in the right direction.

WINERY

Jonathan Edwards Winery

North Stonington, (860) 535-0202

jedwardswinery.com

Jonathan Edwards is "the heart of Napa Valley in New England," combining West Coast wine prowess with East Coast sensibility. Founded in 2000 as a bi-coastal venture, the Edwards family is committed to the best grapes and best wines available. The 48-acre North Stonington winery has all the quaint New England charm you could ask for and the wines are award-winning.

WINGS

Archie Moore's

New Haven and other locations

(203) 773-9870

archiemoores.com

The wing kings are back! Archie Moore's was a Best of winner for more than a decade straight—we've tried the rest, but we always keep coming back to Archie's, which rules because of its quality consistency, both in its tangy buffalo sauce and the meatiness of the wings.

BEST MED SPA

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SIDEDOOR JAZZ CLUB

FUN & LEISURE

NIGHTLIFE

BEER BAR

Cask Republic/The Ginger Man
New Haven, Greenwich
and other locations
(475) 238-8335
caskrepublic.com/gingerman.com

This family of American taverns has been serving craft beer and bar food for more than a decade. Each location's drink menu is slightly different, but generally you'll find around 53 beers on tap plus wines and spirits. Many local beers are featured here and pair perfectly with high-end bar food like soy-glazed wings and a housemade lamb pastrami reuben.

BEER GARDEN

East Side Restaurant
New Britain, (860) 223-1188
eastsiderestaurant.com

This outdoor beer drinker's Garden of Eden has an authentic German atmosphere. The menu includes potato pancakes, herring and a wide variety of schnitzels. Of course, there's also a great selection of German beer served (when requested) in cartoonishly big 1-liter beer steins by a waitstaff that often sings as they serve.

CRAFT COCKTAILS

116 Crown
New Haven, (203) 777-3116
116crown.com

116 Crown is one of those bars where the drinks menu is larger and more complex than the food menu. Broken into categories such as "Flavorful, Complex & Diverse," "Aromatic & Subtle" and "For Beginners," drink aficionados can sample an impressive array of creative cocktails, many created by owner and resident mixologist John Ginetti, who also teaches cocktail classes.

HAPPY HOUR

Engine Room
Mystic, (860) 415-8117
engineroomct.com

We wish we could cap each workday at the Engine Room during happy hour. From 4 to 6 p.m. every day (in the bar only), enjoy half-price bar bites and select craft beers for just $4 a pint as well as $5 burgers and $5 cocktail and wine specials. It's rare to find such quality offered at bargain prices.

THE STUDY AT YALE

HOTEL BAR

The Study at Yale

New Haven, (203) 503-3900

studyatyale.com

The modern bar on the first floor of the swanky "lifestyle" hotel in the heart of Yale University draws hotel guests, locals and New Haven visitors alike. The wine collection at the Heirloom Restaurant bar features boutique labels, the beer selection (with an emphasis on New England breweries) pulls from around the world, and the signature cocktails use house elixirs and infusions.

IRISH PUB

McKinnons Irish Pub

Hartford, (860) 524-8174

mckinnonsirishpub.com

First things first: Of course, there's Guinness on tap! Set on the corner of Asylum and Trumbull streets in downtown Hartford, McKinnon's also has the classic Irish neighborhood pub feel with drink specials and weekly live Irish music as well as lamb stew and cottage pie. Plus, free peanuts while you drink!

LIVE JAZZ

Sidedoor Jazz Club

Old Lyme, (860) 434-0886

thesidedoorjazz.com

Owner Ken Kitchings' passion for jazz can be felt in every inch of his acoustically designed, intimate and cool-as-a-cucumber jazz club. The club is located in a side door space of the Old Lyme Inn (which Kitchings and his wife Christine purchased in 2011) and regularly features great jazz musicians.

OPEN MIC

The Acoustic Café

Bridgeport, (203) 335-3655

acousticcafebpt.com

This Tuesday open mic night (signup starts at 7:30 p.m.) has long been a launch pad for up-and-coming musicians and a testing ground for established ones. Sign up to participate or go as a civilian to see the stars of tomorrow. Each week a local artist is also featured for a longer set.

THE WHARF AT MADISON BEACH HOTEL

VINTED

ROBERT CHARLES PHOTOGRAPHY, MA

OUTDOOR BAR

Rooftop 120

Glastonbury, (860) 430-9989

rooftop120.com

Rooftop 120's four-season deck (the largest in New England) offers impressive panoramic views of Glastonbury. Crowd around one of the fire pits, hang at the two-sided bar or lounge on a patio sofa. The bar is stocked with beer, wine and craft cocktails while the food—with its international influences—is served in a chic, romantic interior.

OUTDOOR DINING

The Wharf at Madison Beach Hotel

Madison, (203) 245-1404

madisonbeachhotel.com

With a wraparound deck overlooking the Long Island Sound, The Wharf Restaurant at Madison Beach Hotel offers impressive sunset views. When the weather chills, overhead heating lamps allow the al fresco dining to continue. The treasures of the Atlantic Ocean feature prominently on the menu from diver scallops to steamed Maine lobster, plus delicacies of the land and garden.

PLACE TO HEAR LOCAL BANDS

Café 9

New Haven

(203) 789-8281

cafenine.com

It's known as "The Musician's Living Room," and it's obvious that bands are comfortable playing here as there are live performances seven nights a week. The place is also just about as big as the average living room, which makes for an intimate space that puts the audience right in the middle of music—as they should be.

SPORTS BAR

Chicago Sam's

Cromwell and Enfield

(860) 635-1860

chicagosams.com

If you're going out to watch the game, then the most important aspect of the destination you choose is being able to see the game—and with 100 TVs, you'll catch all the action here. Plus, there are more than a dozen beers on tap, great pub food, drink specials, games and everything to make for the ideal sports-viewing experience.

WINE BAR

Vinted

West Hartford

(860) 206-4648

federalrestaurants.com

This wine and tapas bar in the heart of West Hartford's Blue Back Square offers more than 60 wines. Each vintage can be ordered by the 1-oz. taste, 3-oz. half glass or 6-oz. full glass. The wine is taken seriously here, with bottles stored at ideal temperatures thanks to state-of-the-art WineStation technology. Enjoy a glass with selections from the menu of modern American tapas.

WINE LIST

Bernard's and Sarah's Wine Bar

Ridgefield

(203) 438-8282

bernardsridgefield.com

These sister restaurants (Sarah's Wine Bar is located upstairs at Bernard's) have a wine list so long it seems like it was written by Victor Hugo. Over 1,300 wines are featured from the U.S., France and around the world and categorized by country, grape and region. There is also an extensive half bottle list as well as a great selection of dessert wine.

WINVIAN

OVERNIGHTS

BED-N-BREAKFAST

The Manor House
Norfolk, (866) 542-5690
manorhousenorfolk.com

The Manor House has all the rural charm you could ask for in a quaint B-n-B. Built in 1898 by renowned architect E.K. Rossiter, this estate has maintained its classic feel while updating the amenities to ensure a top-of-the-line experience. In-room massages, fresh-made picnic baskets, bicycles and various tours are available when you stay in the inn itself.

INN

The Inn at Saybrook Point
Old Saybrook
(800) 243-0212
saybrook.com

Wake up to the gentle waters of Long Island Sound in one of the Inn's 82 guest rooms and villas or the guest house, Three Stories. During your stay enjoy the amenities at the inn's top-notch Sanno Spa and have dinner at its restaurant, Fresh Salt, which uses only the freshest local ingredients.

HOTEL: ROMANTIC GETAWAY

Winvian
Morris, (860) 567-9600
winvian.com

The resort is set on 113 acres, anchored by a 1775 manor house and embellished by 18 stunning architect-designed cottages that reflect key Connecticut themes. There's an on-site luxury spa in its own gorgeous building, and to cap it all, the Relais & Chateaux property is a Mobile Five Diamond winner for both lodging and dining.

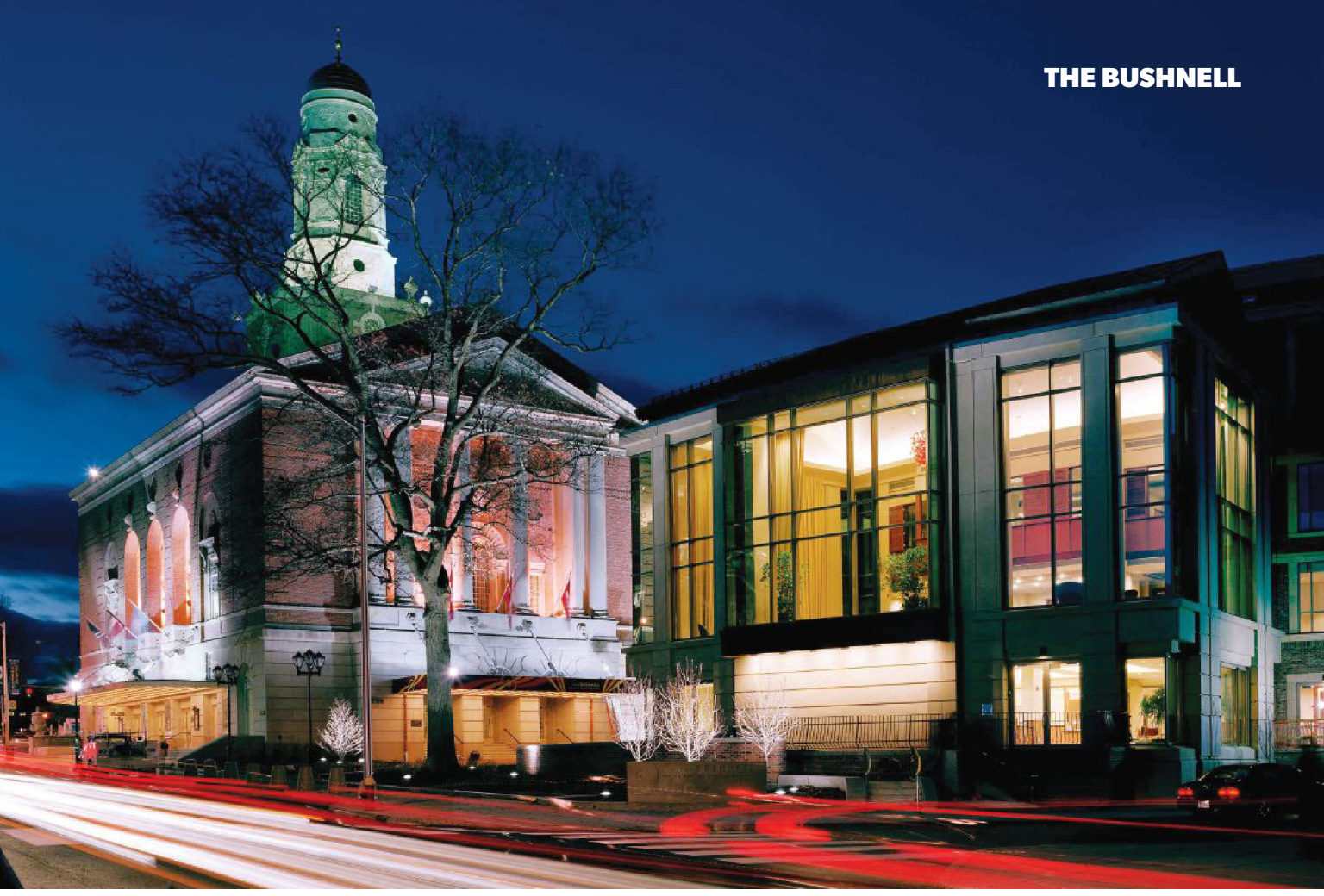
HOTEL: CITY

JHouse
Greenwich, (203) 698-6980
jhousegreenwich.com

This upscale boutique hotel with beautiful glass and stone work allows guests to stretch out in the 700-square-foot king suite, enjoy a private patio in the patio room, hunker down for a long pampered stay in the double executive room, or enjoy one of the hotel's other, equally impressive rooms. Wherever you stay, comfort and elegance is the name of the game.

THE INN AT SAYBROOK POINT

FRANK GILROY



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Saturday, October 24
9 am – 1 pm

Exam Prep Course Students are invited to stay for lunch and football game on Saturday, October 24.

Register online now at SJCadets.org/admissions (Entrance Exam Prep Course)

For more information or to set up a private tour
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admissions@sjcadets.org

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For more information, see page 86

PERFORMING ARTS

CHILDREN'S THEATER

Oddfellows Playhouse

Middletown, (860) 347-6143

oddfellows.org

The state's largest youth theater, the nonprofit Oddfellows has been working with children for nearly 40 years, teaching all aspects and skill levels of the performing arts including singing, dancing, acting and storytelling. The trained pros here work hard to help kids and teens build confidence, work in groups and develop new talents.

COMMUNITY THEATER

Seven Angels Theatre

Waterbury, (203) 757-4676

sevenangelstheatre.org

For more than 25 years, the nonprofit Seven Angels has been producing and presenting professional regional theater works, often in conjunction with Actor's Equity. Comedies, musicals, dramas, cabaret, world premieres, youth programs—all grace the Seven Angels stage to the tune of better than 200 performances per year.

PERFORMING ARTS VENUE : LARGE

The Bushnell

Hartford, (860) 987-6000

bushnell.org

The Bushnell has been central to the Greater Hartford arts scene for more than 80 years, hosting a wide variety of performances from traveling Broadway plays to major musical acts. Upcoming events include Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons (Oct. 7), *Mamma Mia!* (Oct. 30-Nov.1) and *Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer: The Musical* (Dec.11-13).

PERFORMING ARTS VENUE: SMALL

Infinity Hall

Norfolk and Hartford, (860) 542-5531

infinityhall.com

Located in a historic opera house in scenic Norfolk, the original Infinity Music Hall & Bistro has been hosting diverse musical acts on the original stage for years. In 2014, a second location in the heart of Hartford furthered the musical mission. Both locations feature world-class acts and the bistros serve satisfying lunch, brunch and dinner options.

PERFORMING ARTS VENUE :COLLEGE

WCSU Visual & Performing Arts Center

Danbury, (203) 837-9000

wcsu.edu

It is rare that the moment you walk into a theater or concert hall a standing ovation seems in order, but that's the case at Western Connecticut State University's $97 million 130,000-square-foot Visual & Performing Arts Center. The main theater and separate acoustically designed musical hall are, in a word, breathtaking.

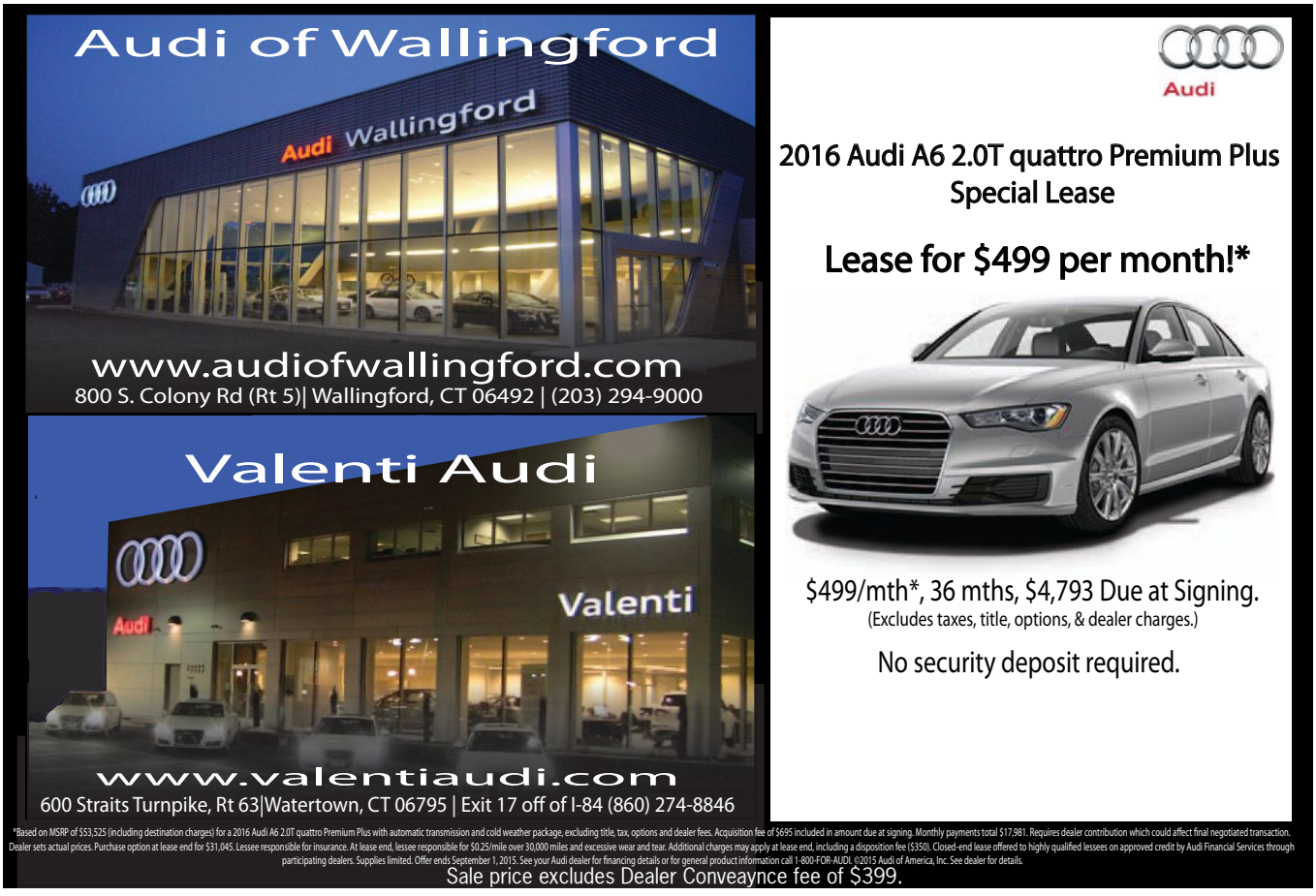
CULTURAL ATTRACTION: ART

Wadsworth Atheneum

Hartford, (860) 278-2670

thewadsworth.org

This past January, the oldest public art museum in the nation unveiled the results of a $33 million renovation that featured refurbishment of three major galleries. The Wadsworth can now better showcase its vast collection, including works dating from 1945 that haven't been seen until now as well as new pieces from Hartford's Sol LeWitt and other recent acquisitions.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Sale price excludes Dealer Conveaynce fee of $399.

CHELSEA PIERS SCOTT MCDERMOTT

CULTURAL ATTRACTION: HISTORY

Gillette Castle

East Haddam, (860) 526-2336

Actor William Gillette helped resurrect Sherlock Holmes after Arthur Conan Doyle had killed him off. It was Gillette who gave the character his famous deerstalker cap, pipe and "elementary" catchphrase. As his curtain call, Gillette left the state this one-of-kind edifice of stone and steel on the crest of a hill overlooking the Connecticut River. A tour of the castle is a fascinating look into one of the theater's greatest (and quirkiest) leading men.

CULTURAL ATTRACTION: WITH KIDS

Mystic Seaport

Mystic, (860) 572-0711

mysticseaport.org

Kids instinctively realize what tall ship and nautical historians the world over know: Mystic Seaport is a spectacular place. The museum made headlines last year when it took the world's last wooden whaleship the *Charles W. Morgan* back to sea for the first time in more than 90 years and the Seaport continues to wow all visitors with other historic artifacts and recreations.

ACTIVITIES

ACTION PARK

Brownstone Exploration & Discovery Park

Portland, (866) 860-0208

brownstonepark.com

Whether you're a full-on thrill-seeker or casual recreation enthusiast, Brownstone has an activity for you—cliff jumping, scuba diving, zip lining, wakeboarding, rock climbing, snorkeling, kayaking and even extreme rope swings. There's also picnic areas, hiking and biking, making it the ideal destination for any active family.

COUNTRY FAIR

Durham Fair

Durham, (860) 349-9495

durhamfair.com

For more than 90 years, the Durham Fair has been the largest agricultural fair in the

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state, drawing tens of thousands annually. In addition to great food, unusual competitions, midway rides, family activities and ag-related contests, this year's fair (Sept. 24-27) includes performances by country superstars Martina McBride, Craig Morgan and Confederate Railroad.

FARM ORCHARD

March Farm

Bethlehem, (203) 266-7721

marchfarm.com

March Farm is a third-generation family farm in the rolling hills of Litchfield County. It's a perfect destination to take the kids for a day of fruit picking and fun. Strawberries, blueberries, peaches and apples can be picked through the seasons. Stop by the farm store for delicious goodies including pastries, honey, jam and ice cream.

FARMERS' MARKET

Coventry Farmers' Market

Coventry

coventryfarmersmarket.com

Unfortunately, this year marks the twelfth and final season of this popular weekly event, a throwback to farmers' markets of days gone by with fresh produce from local farms, homemade baked goods and products, artisan crafts and wares, kid-friendly activities and live entertainment. Held on the grounds of the Nathan Hale Homestead, it runs through October—and hopefully, finds a way to return next year.

GOLF COURSE: MINI

Saybrook Point Minature Golf

Old Saybrook, (860) 395-3152

saybrookrec.com

Only a short putt from the gentle waters of Saybrook harbor, this family-friendly destination has arguably the best view any mini golf course in the state can offer. Refurbished in the wake of Hurricane Sandy, the 18-hole course is in terrific condition, with even greens, miniature replicas of local landmarks and all the classic mini golf challenges.

GOLF COURSE: PUBLIC

Fox Hopyard

East Haddam, (800) 943-1903

golfthefox.com

Adjacent to Devil's Hopyard State Park and playing at nearly 7,000 yards from the back tees, "The Fox" is one of the most scenic and challenging tracts in the state. In addition to the rolling hills, woods, ponds and wetlands, golfers love the 18th, a par-5 challenge with a pond tight up against the green that demands saving some of your best shots for last.

SPORTS COMPLEX

Chelsea Piers Stamford

Stamford, (203) 989-1000

chelseapiersct.com

If you love sports, it's all here in this 465,000-square-foot Stamford complex—two ice rinks, an Olympic-sized pool, indoor water park, gymnastics training center, squash and tennis courts, soccer and lacrosse fields, basketball and volleyball courts, batting cages, an indoor rock climbing wall, trampoline fun space and a fitness center. Now go get your game on!

WATER PARK

Lake Compounce

Bristol, (860) 583-3300

lakecompounce.com

The biggest water park in the state is also the best, featuring multiple ways to get wet, cool off and have fun on a hot summer day—a giant wave pool, multiple twisting and turning water slides, a lazy river, a family raft ride and a great play space with a giant 300-gallon bucket and water cannons.

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Bar Americain

Mohegan Sun
(860) 862-3529
baramericain.com/ct

Chef Bobby Flay is known around the world for his bold flavors, culinary expertise and versatility, and his sleek and stylish Bar Americain reflects that, melding his American menu with overtones of a European brasserie. Entrées take simple pleasures and infuse them with Flay's skill, creating a unique and exciting dining experience.

ENTERTAINMENT VENUE: LARGE

Mohegan Sun Arena

Mohegan Sun
(888) 226-7711
mohegansun.com

The 10,000-seat arena has hosted some of the biggest musical acts of all time, from Bon Jovi, Billy Joel and The Who to Jay Z, Keith Urban and Kelly Clarkson, as well as MMA bouts, Connecticut Sun basketball and wine fests. Upcoming shows include Nick Jonas (Sept. 11), The Band Perry (Sept. 25) and Of Monsters and Men (Sept. 26).

ENTERTAINMENT VENUE: SMALL

Cabaret Theatre

Mohegan Sun
(888) 226-7711
mohegansun.com

Sitting at one of the tables circling the stage in this intimate 350-seat theater is like stepping back in time to the days when The Catskills were a tourist attraction and Frank Sinatra and the Rat Pack held court in the entertainment world. Enjoy acts like Tony Orlando, Port Chuck and Frank Sinatra Jr. in a classy setting with a vintage cabaret feel.

NIGHTCLUB

Shrine

Foxwoods
(860) 312-3000
foxwoods.com

Again and again this nightclub is ranked among the best, not just in the state but in the world, and it's easy to see why. There's the 21,000-square-foot Asian-inspired club and lounge. Add to that the outdoor lounges, open-air dining terraces and appearances by celebrities—including Kim Kardashian, Jamie-Lynn Sigler and Diddy—and you're sure to have a memorable night at Shrine.

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For more information, see page 86

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SHOPPING

Tanger Outlets at Foxwoods

(800) 369-9663, *foxwoods.com*

Opened this year, the Tanger Outlets at Foxwoods includes more than 80 brand name stores and designers under one roof. From Michael Kors to Calvin Klein and Nike to H&M, there's shopping for everyone here. After winning in the casino, why not treat yourself with something special?

HOME & GARDEN

ANTIQUES: MULTIDEALER

Antique and Artisan Gallery

Stamford, (203) 327-6022

stamfordantiques.com

At the Antique and Artisan Gallery, you'll find vintage, mid-century and antique furniture, all hand-selected and displayed by 60 top dealers. The 23,000-square-foot warehouse holds local and international artwork, jewelry and home décor. From a white Onassis chair by Karl Springer to bedding from Elanbach's Royal Collection, the Gallery has something for you to discover.

ANTIQUES: SOLO

Mill House Antiques

Woodbury, (203) 263-3446

millhouseantiquesandgardens.com

Mill House Antiques notes that it's as well known for its gardens as its antiques. Both are superior, both worthy enough to give Mill House destination status. Once you get there, you'll revel in the 17 showrooms, spread among five buildings that house an amazing selection of antiques and accessories.

CONSIGNMENT FURNITURE

Middlebury Consignment

Middlebury, (203) 528-0130

middleburyconsignment.com

Middlebury Consignments is the perfect place to buy and sell antique and contemporary furniture and home décor. The 20,000-square-foot showroom contains furniture from some of the most notable designers—Theodore Alexander, Maitland-Smith and Henredon—not to mention a large collection of iconic checkered black-and-white ceramic pieces from MacKenzie-Childs. There is also a café with a chef.

EXOTIC PLANTS

Logee's

Danielson, (888) 330-8038

logees.com

A visit to Logee's is akin to stepping into another world—five greenhouses teem with gorgeous tropical plants, some amazing specimens of which have broken through containers to take root (like the 114-year-old Ponderosa lemon tree that still bears five-pound lemons). More than 1,500 varieties of plants are available, from fragrant flowers to fruit trees to orchids and more.

FLORIST

The Flower Fall

Westport, (203) 221-8080

theflowerfall.com

Award-winning floral designer and poet Cyrus Paktinat creates subtly beautiful arrangements for all occasions out of his sweet vine-covered Westport shop. From traditional tablescapes to unconventional grasses, mosses and branches, Paktinat lets his imagination run wild. His work has been featured in *Martha Stewart Living*, *Connecticut Cottages & Gardens* and *Westport Magazine*.

HOME DÉCOR

The Nosey Goose

Madison, (203) 245-3132

thenoseygoose.com

Nine rooms of this lovely 1900s Madison home are filled with wonderful discoveries from rugs to soaps and dressers to picture frames. Home décor, gifts, cottage-style furnishings and accessories are not in short supply at this shop, which opened in 1980. The Nosey Goose offers custom furniture painting services and complimentary gift wrapping.

KITCHEN & BATH DESIGN

Klaff's, Danbury and Norwalk, (800) 552-3371, *klaffs.com*

In this era of specialization, Klaffs is the rare resource that offers high-quality expertise and top-of-the-line brands and product in multiple areas. The walk-through galleries and showrooms offer inspiration for your kitchen and bath needs, with plenty of new products, ideas and styles that are sure to fit your home.

NURSERY

Broken Arrow Nursery

Hamden, (203) 288-1026

brokenarrownursery.com

Broken Arrow Nursery is a premier specialty plant retailer of woody plants and perennials in line with the best in the country. With contacts around the globe, the nursery is able to bring in top specimens from everywhere. Broken Arrow is the place to find native plants as well as the "uncommon and underutilized" options.

OUTDOOR FURNITURE

Porch & Patio

Orange, (203) 799-2329

porchandpatio.net

If you're looking for something special for a deck or patio, Porch & Patio has it—all types of casual outdoor furniture (cast aluminum, aluminum, wood, wrought iron, poly-wood and wicker) as well as fire pits, umbrellas, hammocks, awnings and more. Porch & Patio also offers in-home consultation and furniture storage.

ROSES

Twombley Nursery

Monroe, (203) 261-2133

twomblynursery.com

With an assortment of Climbers, English roses, Meidilands, Flower Carpets, Romanticas and Town and Country series, Twombly has a never-ending supply of roses. Japanese maples, hydrangeas or perennials are also available, and plants can be special ordered. The staff of trained horticulturists and designers is on hand to help you start up or care for your rose garden.

ART SUPPLIES

Artist & Craftsman

New Haven, (203) 498-1414

artistcraftsman.com

The Connecticut location of this arts company with select stores throughout the country has a little something for artists of all disciplines. There are canvasses, paints and pencils, as well as supplies for jewelry making and the creation of other crafts. For those who are not artistically inclined, there are also gift shop items.

FABRIC STORE

The Barn

Bridgeport, (203) 349-2618

thebarn-bridgeport.com

Fifty years after opening its doors, The Barn is still helping homeowners and professionals find the perfect designer fabrics from all over the world as well as custom designing items sewn right in the workrooms. And the Barn is more than just a fabric store—its wide selection of draperies, tablecloths and bedding can inspire you to find your inner interior decorator.

YARN SHOP

Black Sheep Yarn

Kent, (860) 927-3808

blacksheepyarnsct.com

Black Sheep Yarns is more than just a place to buy yarn, needles, hooks and patterns. This shop is more like your neighbor's house where you're always welcome to stop by. Owner Nancy Hamilton, who hosts "Fiber Arts with Nancy" on WHDD 91.9, invites shoppers to visit during the week for a free first-time knitting lesson.

BOOKSTORE: INDEPENDENT

R.J. Julia Booksellers

Madison, (203) 245-3959

rjjulia.com

For 25 years, R.J. Julia's has been a haven for bibliophiles, a welcoming space dedicated to encouraging discovery and quality writing. In addition to a diverse inventory, a great little café and an experienced staff who can help you in any book search, the store hosts more than 350 author events annually.

BOOKSTORE: USED

The Book Barn

Niantic, (860) 739-5715

bookbarnniantic.com

There's no shortage of books at this Niantic landmark. The Book Barn's ever-changing inventory covers every shelf, is stacked to the ceiling and can be found in outbuildings and other spots on the property. The Book Barn buys books every day, making this the place to discover rare gems.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

Banko's Music

Ansonia, (203) 734-0461

Although it may be small and a bit cramped, Banko's has been the quintessential neighborhood music shop for 60 years. In addition to selling any kind of instrument (from guitars to flutes to xylophones), it also offers music lessons, instrument repair and unparalleled expertise from owner Joe Salvati, who knows and lives music.

OVER THE MOON

RICHARD ENGLISH, STUDIO 360

BIANCA BOUTIQUE

MATTHEW ABOUREZK

BOUTIQUES

BABY

The Red Balloon
Essex, (860) 767-0763
theredballoonessex.com

For more than 35 years, The Red Balloon has featured fine clothes and footwear for children, including newborns. Petit Bateau, Catimini, Charlie Rocket, Wes and Willy and Zutano are just a few of the baby-friendly lines here, where impeccable taste and top-notch quality products are available on every shelf and rack.

CONSIGNMENT

Consigned Designs/Ella Encore
Greenwich, (203) 869-2165
consigneddesigns.com

Consigned Designs—and its even more luxurious sister shop next door, Elle Encore Couture—are a dual paradise for women with impeccable taste and style who want the best labels at the best prices. Brands like Prada, Chanel, Dolce & Gabbana and Kate Spade are represented. Clients reportedly include actress Catherine Zeta-Jones.

KIDS

Over the Moon
Avon, (860) 676-9599
overthemoonkids.com

What makes family-run Over the Moon special is not only the range of clothes—from preemies up to size 12—but the quality of the selection. You'll find brands like Isobella and Chloe, Pink Chicken, Tea, Charlie Rocket and City Threads in addition to great outerwear, footwear, hats, accessories and more.

MEN'S WEAR

R. Derwin Clothiers
Litchfield, (860) 567-4095
rderwinclothiers.com

R. Derwin's men's store recently opened in a new space on West Street in Litchfield but the same dedication to style and sophistication that has branded the shop as a fashion destination for the past quarter century is still here. Carrying the finest in European sportswear as well as American-made clothing and accessories, it is a must-visit for every sharp-dressed man.

WOMEN'S ACCESSORIES

Bianca Boutique
Westport, (203) 557-4590
shopbiancaboutique.com

Clothing, scarves, necklaces, earrings, cuffs and more for the discerning shopper—Bianca Boutique in Westport curates the "best in style and quality from all over the world including Europe, the United States and Asia." After-hours appointments for personal fashion consulting and private shopping are available upon request. Or explore the shop yourself—you're sure to find something fabulous.

WOMEN'S FORMALWEAR

Helen Ainson
Darien, (203) 655-9841
helenainson.com

From cocktail dresses to evening gowns, Helen Ainson has been dressing the lovely ladies of Darien (and well beyond) in the most stylish designs for more than 35 years. Damianou, Rina diMontella, Alberto Makali, Blake & Co., David Meister and Teri Jon—just a sampling of the dozens of luxury fashion designs (in sizes 2 to 24) available here.

WOMEN'S WEAR

Mitchells
Westport, (203) 227-5165
shop.mitchellstores.com

Opened in 1958, Mitchells of Westport has long been associated with quality designer clothing, jewelry and accessories and customer service that goes above and beyond. The shop is still independent and family-operated by the second and third generations of the Mitchells family. Designers include Brunello Cucinelli, Manolo Blahnik and Valentino.

NEW MORNING COUNTRY STORE

KIMBERLY BOUTON

JEWELRY

JEWELRY DESIGNER

Quality Gem

Bethel, (203) 748-4239

qualitygem.com

Known "as that guy in the commercials" from a series of campy-but-loveable TV ads, Dennis Janofsky is the head of this family operation where quality and care come first. After Janofsky selects the gemstones for a new piece, the Quality Gem craftsmen sketch an idea, hand carve a wax, cast the metal, set the stones, polish and shine. Then the friendly staff helps you find the right piece.

JEWELRY STORE

Lux Bond & Green

West Hartford and Glastonbury

(203) 227-1300

lbgreen.com

Lux Bond & Green was founded in 1898 by Morris A. Green, who sold pocket watches and gold eye frames from a horse-drawn cart in Waterbury. Today, watches, diamonds and jewelry from all the top designers can be found at Lux as well as terrific pieces like the stunning cuffs of Connecticut-based Evocateur.

GENERAL

APPLIANCE DEALER

Holloways Appliance Dealer

Simsbury, (860) 658-5252

holloways.com

Family-owned since 1949, Holloways covers a variety of home appliance needs, from cooking and refrigeration needs to vacuums and washing machines, in conjunction with brand names and fair prices. Holloways is also dedicated to customer service, both when picking out the right appliance for your home but also making sure it stays maintained.

EYEWEAR

OptiCare

Multiple locations

opticarepc.com

Specializing in eye care for over 30 years, OptiCare Eye Health and Vision Center is the premier place for routine eye exams and eyeglasses, and with 18 locations throughout Connecticut, there's a center near you. For eye health issues requiring surgery, a team of professionals can take care of you at the Ambulatory Surgery Center in Waterbury and Laser Vision Correction Center in Danbury.

GIFTS

The Bowerbird

Old Lyme, (860) 434-3562

thebowerbird.com

As The Bowerbird likes to brag, it offers 4,500 square feet of "impulsive necessities," including items that are fun, special and trendy, from more than 2,000 vendors. Decorative home and garden accessories, toys, books, baby gifts, stationery, clocks, collectibles, frames, jewelry, seasonal gifts, gourmet food . . . the selection goes on and on.

HEALTH FOOD STORE

New Morning

Woodbury, (203) 263-4868

newmorn.com

New Morning Store is home to the largest organic produce selection in the area and an extensive supplement and homeopathic department. On top of that, New Morning's fresh prepared foods counter, the Provender, is a gourmet source for delicious, ready-to-eat natural and organic foods created by Executive Chef Carol Byer-Alcorace.

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TOY SHOP

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jordiestoyshoppect.com

It's three stores but all the same owners, Mick and Lori Hershman, locals who are dedicated to ensuring that there's an awesome selection of the best and newest toys available at each location. And because it's a small, family-owned enterprise, that means friendly, knowledgeable and helpful customer service you don't get from the big chain stores.

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(203) 773-9288
thedevilsgear.com

All the elite names are here—Kona, Jamis, Brompton, Colnago, Linus—but it's Devil's Gear's commitment to "the joy of riding" that sets this shop apart. In addition to giving pro advice in picking out a new or used bike and servicing it after the purchase, Devil's Gear is deeply involved with the community, whether it be organizing events and classes or sponsoring special rides throughout the year.

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For more information, see page 86

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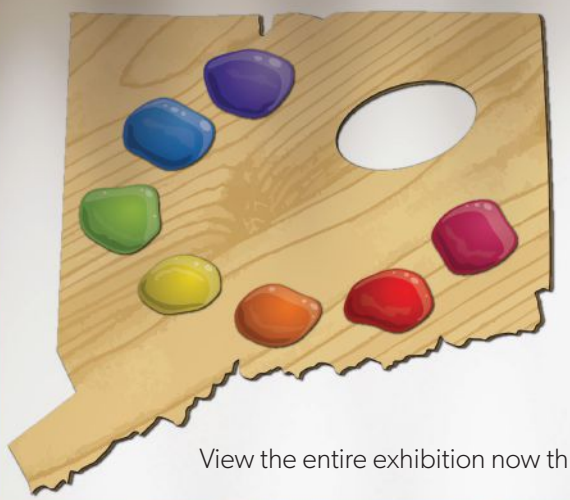
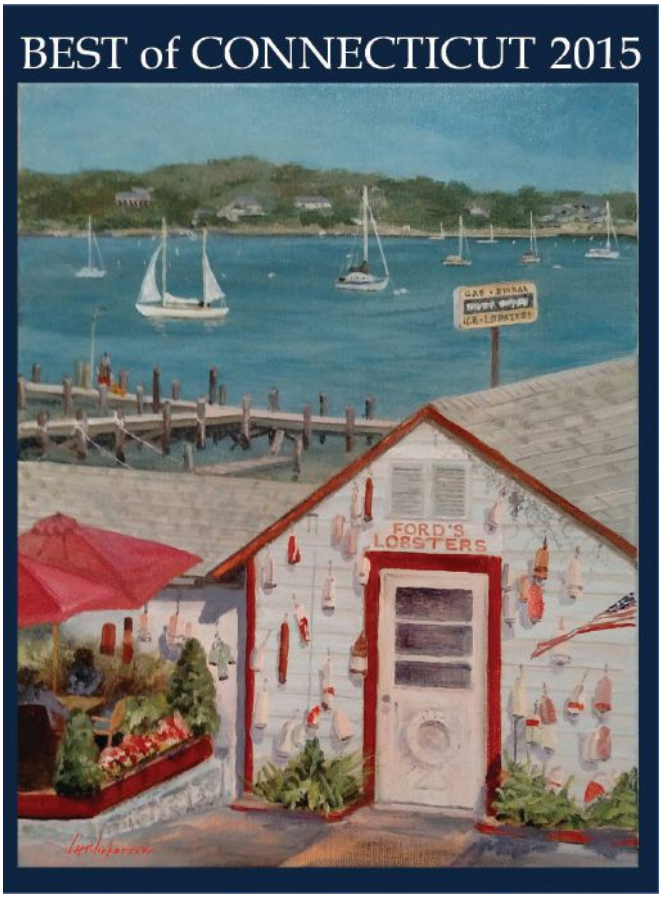


BEST OF CONNECTICUT® 2015 ART EXHIBITION

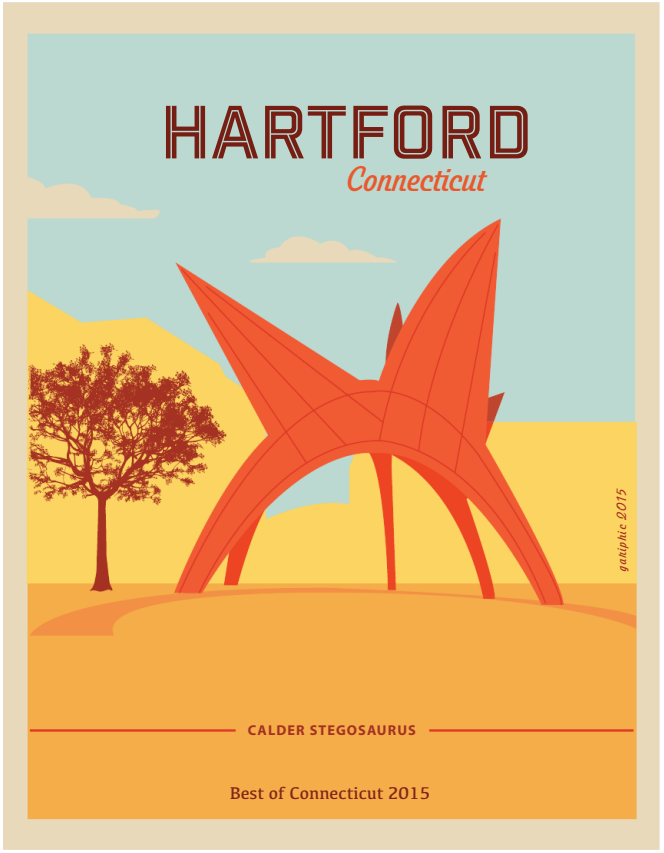
We put out a call to artists around the state to show us what the Best of Connecticut meant to them. We then exhibited the entries online in our first-ever art contest. On the next few pages, you'll find some of our favorites from the exhibition, including our Sponsor's Choice and Readers' Choice winners.

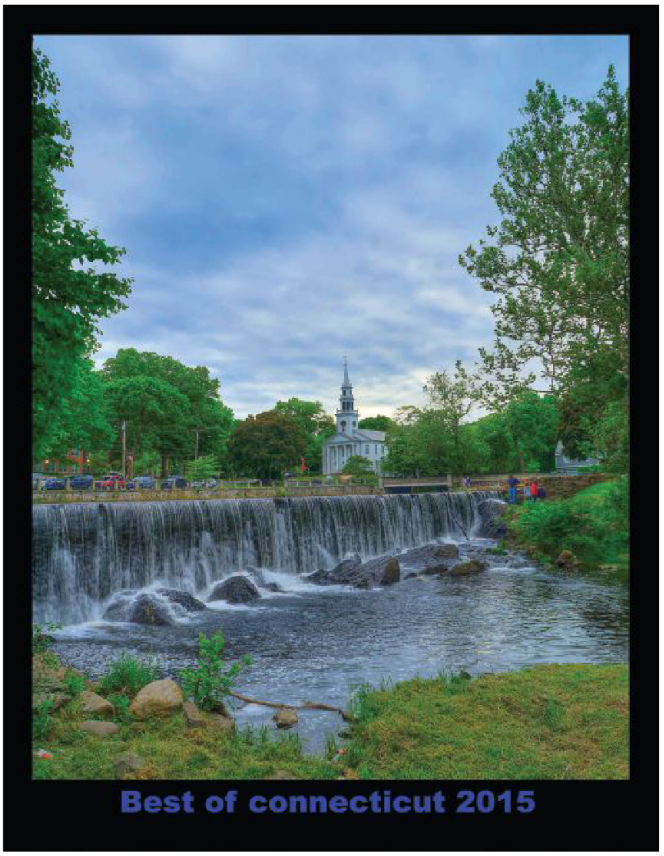
View the entire exhibition now through September 30, 2015 at **connecticutmag.com/BOCArt2015.**



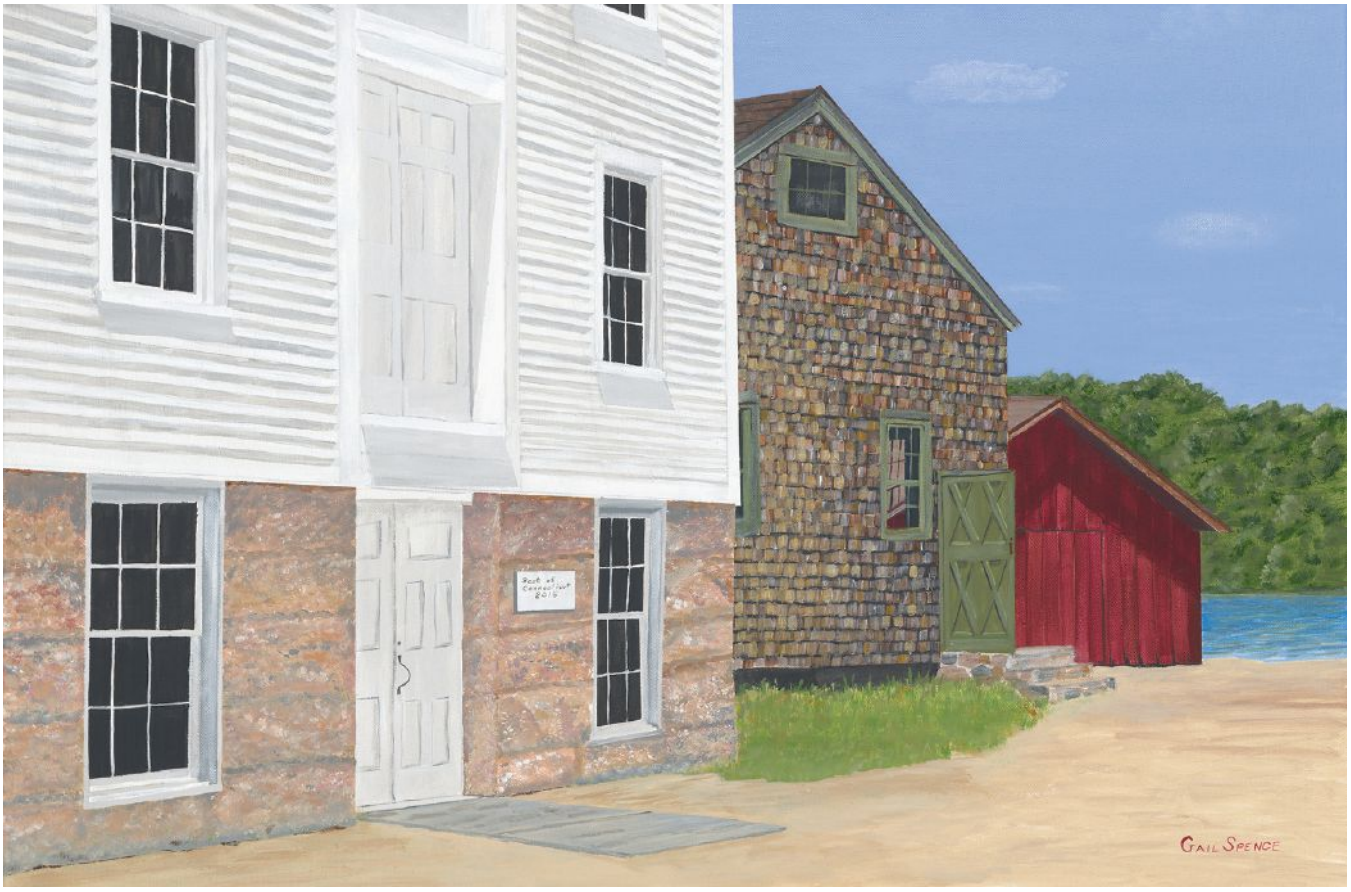
(Opposite): **"Imagine Hartford"** by Magge Gagliardi, digital illustration.

(This page, clockwise from upper left): **"Going for a Joy Ride"** by Holly Bollier, mixed media; **"Ford's Lobsters"** by Jonathan Nickerson, oil on canvas; **"Blue Crab"** by Susan Prentice, pastel on paper; "Best Days are Beach Days" by Ashley Lodovico, watercolor; **"Robin with Azaleas"** by Andrea Lavery, oil on fine art panel.





(Clockwise from upper left): **"Jurassic Hartford"** by Gary Holmes, vector art; **"Over The Falls on a Summer Day"** by John Richards, photography; **"Hartford 2015 Chess Set"** by Virginia Seeley, clay.



(clockwise, from upper left): **"If Walls Could Talk...."** by Gail Elizabeth Spence, acrylic; **"CT Living"** by Chloe Smith, drawing; **"Curious Cow"** by Christine Prenez, photography; **"Tranquility"** by Reyna Ottenstein, photography.

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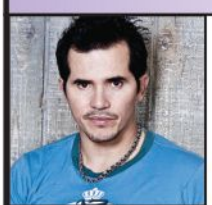

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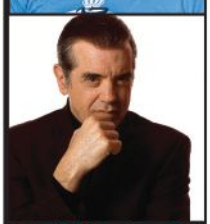

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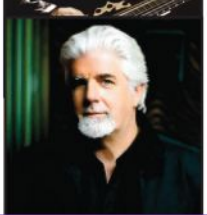

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The visually stunning—and equally delicious—fare is one of Sayulita's hallmarks.

A Terrific Taste of Mexico

BY ELISE MACLAY

SAYULITA IN GLASTONBURY OFFERS SAVVY, SOPHISTICATED MEXICAN CUISINE IN A HIP, RELAXED ATMOSPHERE.

Sayulita ★★½ [Very Good-Superior]
Glastonbury

Years ago when contests involved describing a product or service in 25 words or less, I won prizes—once a car, another time a vacation at a resort hotel. I was thrilled with both. The car was a Hillman Minx convertible. The resort was in Puerta Vallarta where Richard Burton, Deborah Kerr and Ava Gardner were co-starring in *Night of the Iguana*. I was a film critic at the time and a foodie who had yet to sample Mexican cuisine in situ. We hopped the next plane.

I loved Puerta Vallarta, the palms, the beach, the sea and the Mexican food—not in the hotel dining room but at a small inn a short walk away. Memory may romanticize but the food at that little mom-and-pop place seemed fresher, more vibrant and somehow more uninhibited than anything I had encountered at Mexican restaurants in the U.S.

The dishes on Sayulita's modern Mexican menu may bring back memories but they are not exact replicas. In the culinary world what goes around often comes around in very different ways, be it reflecting a healthier lifestyle, taking advantage of newly available ingredients or sometimes because chefs just like to have fun.

That pretty much describes what Sayulita's owner Bill Driggs says he had in mind when he opened a Mexican restaurant in Glastonbury and named it for a fishing and surfing village about 25 miles from Puerta Vallarta. The vibe he says he's aiming for is beachy, laid-back, relaxed, sand-in-your-sandals, with the food equally free-wheeling, Mexican-inspired and prepared by a savvy, sophisticated chef. This we have to see.

We arrive early on a Sunday evening. At the door we bump into a long-time-no-see acquaintance rushing out. Greetings and salutations and how was the food? Terrible. Everything. Inedible. Even my husband couldn't eat it. Stunned, we watch her drive off—presumably to Taco Bell.

The dining room is wall-to-wall with people. So much for terrible.

Housed in a 1790 colonial building, which from the outside gives no hint of the Mexican fiesta within, Sayulita's rustic-chic interior—like the food on its menu—honors the past while resisting cliché. No stucco arches, piñatas or sombreros. No blockbuster burritos smothered with cheese. Instead, a handsome bar made from a centuries-old oak tree serves Sixpoint Sweet Action cream ale in a sleek room with a black ceiling and four TV screens, while waitresses in jeans serve lobster tacos with black truffle shavings in a dining room furnished with whitewashed pine booths, nostalgic posters and vintage photographs.

The wait for a table in the dining room is indeed long, but the staff, young, solicitous and informed, finds us a seat on the patio and attentively deals with a too-small table by moving candles, bottles and glasses around and diligently removing and replacing plates.

We start with a few rounds of what the menu calls snacks before moving on to heartier fare. Ceviche de Playa is so beautiful we almost don't recognize it. Forget ceviche in an oversized martini glass and behold a palm frond created with paper-thin slices of avocado on a narrow white china plate decorated with a jewel-bright dice of scallops, tomato, jicama, lime chili and cilantro, and punctuated with tall plantain chips like double exclamation points.

Heirloom salad is equally exuberant with thick slices of prize tomatoes—yellow as a fire hydrant, magenta with almost purple skins, topped with watermelon, asparagus, arugula, radish slices and candied pepitas—a large, filling portion and a vegetarian bargain at $9.

It's worth noting that prices at Sayulita may be higher than at a run-of-the-mill tacos bar because every ingredient is top-of-the-line. The scallops in the ceviche are Bomster, the chicken is antibiotic-free Bell & Evans, the beef is natural grass-fed. Not to mention the fact that the chef is Texas-raised Van Hurd, familiar to TV fans for his appearances on shows like Gordon Ramsay's "Hell's Kitchen" and also known for his expertise in fine dining at venues including the famous French Room in Dallas. At Sayulita he says he has fun "getting a little fancy" with some of the old standbys and sending them out as specials. Duck confit with Luxardo cherries, a white clam quesadilla and bacon-wrapped Tijuana dog tacos are recent examples.

Personalized choices are also offered at Sayulita. You can top your salad or fill your taco or fajita with vegetables, shrimp, chicken or steak.

We order a steak fajita and marvel at what arrives: Flavorful strips of sizzling hot grilled skirt steak piled on a mountain of sautéed onions, squash, chilies and poblano peppers served with pico de gallo, Mexican créme, guacamole, Chihuahua cheese and flour tortillas. We eat every bite.

Like many dishes, buttermilk fried chicken is available as a taco or an entrée. With its tissue-thin film of golden crust and trendy accoutrements (bacon-sautéed kale and maple aioli), it's my new love. More Dixie than Mexicali but so delicious it's hard to care.

Not everything works. The bartender says she can't serve us a mojito. What? The skirt steak is a tad overcooked for my taste and as of this writing, Sayulita is not taking reservations so when it's crowded it's unpleasantly cramped and the noise level sometimes rises so high it's hard to carry on a conversation. But Sayulita is not for intimate tête-à-têtes. It's a party.

And what's a party without dessert? The kitchen delivers in an unexpected way. The list is short: Tres leche cake, flan, chorros. But the chef turns same-old into a delight, embellishing the cake with strawberries and prosecco sabayon and the flan with coffee, caramel, blackberries and vanilla bean chantilly. Then, in a surprise throwback to Mexico's most iconic food, classic churros arrive in the traditional brown paper bag. We plan to take some home but end up eating all of them because they come with two luscious dipping sauces and we can't resist.

Sayulita
865 Main St., Glastonbury
(860) 430-9941, cantinasayulita.com

Open daily 4:30-9:30 p.m. (Fri. to 10 p.m., Sat. 1-10 p.m., Sun. 1-9 p.m.). Price range: snacks and salads, $6 to $14; entrées, $16 to $26; desserts, $8. Wheelchair access. Major credit cards.

Below, clockwise from left: Sizzling steak fajitas, street corn and classic tres leche are just some of the Mexican treats on Sayulita's menu.

Table Talk

BY ELISE MACLAY

Gulf & Anchor in Milford, where Beach House used to be, has become a house of many rooms, stylistically reconfiguring its extensive floor space to create areas that beg to be explored. There's the fireplace room with its tiny water view; a chef's counter where foodies can watch the action; a giant octopus in navy-blue and white flagging attention to the raw bar; and a handsome outdoor patio designed to fit into the shoreline neighborhood of romantically Italianate houses. The monumental bar remains monumentally cozy, with bottles of wine and colorful liqueurs lining the walls, but the menu is now unabashedly partial to everything seaworthy. There's pan-seared halibut, Indian-spiced salmon, Portuguese fisherman's stew, hot buttered lobster roll, oysters and mussel pots galore. Carnivores get burgers, lamb and aged N.Y. strip. *(203) 877-9300, gulfandanchor.com*

"Huge" is the word for **Sign of the Whale**, half-gastropub, half-nightclub at Harbor Point, Stamford's newest, hippest dining destination. The action's on the roof—while good weather holds. Live music or a DJ. Trendy cocktails and snacks. When it gets cold, the crowd moves downstairs where the kitchen serves "elevated comfort food." Appetizers include Moroccan chicken tostadas with granny smith apples, golden raisins and crispy wontons. Mains include short ribs braised in Half Full Bright ale, brewed in Stamford. Think pizzas, mussel pots or go for a Whaleburger—with porcini-dusted, applewood-smoked bacon, gruyère, a fried egg and truffle spread on an English muffin, it's young, fun and well, like *huge. (203) 883-8282, signofthewhalect.com*

When Versailles Patisserie opened in Greenwich in 1980 it rather quickly morphed into a sidewalk cafe. Soon lunch and dinner were being served—the homey, deeply satisfying French bistro food Americans were discovering when they went abroad. Fast forward to 2015. Versailles has become **Bistro V**, a showcase for contemporary bistro-style cuisine under the direction of executive chef Erik James Erlichson. Classically trained with international experience, he's best known in Connecticut for his four-star performance at La Colline Verte in Fairfield. In the kitchen with him is chef Cedric Lamouille, who studied at Thonon Les Bains culinary school in France and cooked at prestigious restaurants before becoming sous chef at four-star Restaurant Jean-Louis under Master Chef Jean-Louis Gerin for more than 30 years. Bistro V's new menu is au courant and impressively extensive, and with so much talent in the kitchen, it's nice to know that the masters have not thrown the baby out with the bathwater. You can still get Boeuf Bourguignon and steak frites while your companion has a summer roll of wild shrimp, gluten-free rice noodles, microgreens and hoisin aioli. *(203) 661-6634, versaillesgreenwich.com*

Bringing the Middle East to the Northeast

It's the classic American Dream story with a touch of Middle Eastern spice.

Growing up in Israel, Yosi Awad was immersed in the flavors of the region. There was (and still is) a falafel cart or shop in every town. At home, his parents raised him on the rich scents, flavors and spices of neighboring Yemen, where Awad's family was originally from. "You grow up with a taste in your mouth and you feel the taste—it's all the time in you," he says.

When he immigrated to America in 1988, hummus and other delicacies popular in Israel had not spread to the mainstream American diet. Middle Eastern food was scarce in Connecticut; to get it "you had to drive to New York," Awad recalls.

Over the past few decades that's changed, and Awad has dedicated himself to bringing freshly prepared, authentic hummus and many of the other dishes he grew up with to the masses of America.

Awad is the founder of **Yosi Kitchen** and **Yosi Kosher Catering**, a Windsor-based catering and prepared-food producer. The company manufactures 5,000-6,000 pounds of Middle Eastern fare weekly and its products are carried in 38 Whole Foods stores and 60 Big Ys. In 2014, the company received the Whole Foods Special Recognition Award and Prepared Foods Partnership Award at the annual Whole Foods North Atlantic Supplier Appreciation Luncheon. The 2,500 square-foot Windsor facility also has a takeout menu and the company regularly caters events.

Popular prepared dishes include the tabbouleh salad, hummus, falafel wraps, sesame noodles and squash kugel. "There's no preservatives, it's all natural. When you get it in the store, the shelf life is about 14 and 20 days, just because it's made very fresh," Awad says. "We don't cut corners. We blend our spices, we squeeze our own lemons."

Awad started his catering in the early 2000s along with partner Dafna Cramer, who specializes in pastries and baking. (Currently the traditional Middle Eastern cookies and cakes that are Cramer's specialty are available only from the catering branch of the business, but plans are underway to launch a cookie line.) In 2007, Awad and Cramer brought in executive chef Ian Barstow to supervise the growing staff at the kitchen. The following year Yosi launched a prepared-food line and began distributing to grocery stores and building the Yosi brand.

The successful company has not forgotten about giving back to the community. In addition to Yosi Kitchen, the company also runs "A Taste of Life Pizza," a pizza place that operates on Thursdays and Sundays out of the Beth David Synagogue in West Hartford and is staffed by youths with autism.

Though Awad had no formal training as a chef, he learned from his mother growing up and his culinary creations are powered by generations of enthusiasm for the food he is making. "Sometimes the passion you have is worth more than any school you go to," he says. "My passion is to show people the best you can get out of a product."

As the company has expanded, it's never wandered from its fresh-first culinary roots. "We still work in small batches," he says. "Instead of shooting chick peas out of tubes, we do it on a small scale, to keep the flavor."

And Awad is still hands on with quality control, tasting each batch and comparing it to the ingrained memory he has of the flavors of Israel. "Any little change and you can feel it," he says.

Middle Eastern food is more common than it was in the '80s, but Awad would like to see it continue to grow in popularity. "Hummus is the ketchup of the Middle East," he says. "I think it's going to become that here, too. It's started already. Ten years ago nobody recognized hummus, today it's like almost every household has hummus in the fridge."

(860) 688-6677, yosikoshercatering.com | E.O. |

Chicken & Waffle Sandwich
Shoreline Diner, Guilford

ONE DISH

It may seem odd that we're drawn to one of the non-vegetarian dishes at an eatery that heralds itself as a "vegetarian enclave," but that's just the way it works out sometimes. Besides, the Guilford's **Shoreline Diner** prides itself on trying to be "the place for everyone," so of course, carnivores, vegans and anyone in between can find something on the menu to enjoy.

Maybe what captures our attention about this sandwich is that it's not something usually encountered on menus in old Yankee New England. The combination of chicken and waffles is known more as a soul food staple, and only more recently has found its delicious way into other cuisines and the mainstream, where it has been warmly accepted as a meal that will stick to your ribs.

But just in case a crispy fried chicken breast and thick, fresh-made sweet waffles together weren't substantial enough, melted cheddar and a maple mustard sauce are added here. And to top all that off, of course, there's bacon!

It makes for a sandwich that some might consider hefty, but all the elements work together well, with the maple mustard giving it all a nice little zing. The waffles here are also a key component, fluffy and tasty.

The sandwich comes with a choice of side: fries, cucumber tomato salad, cup of soup, coleslaw, pasta salad, fruit salad or vegan chili.

As previously mentioned, the Shoreline Diner features a varied vegetarian and vegan menu, with choices ranging from salads, wraps and veggie burgers to tabouli and "spaghetti and meatballs" (red lentil and bulgur meatballs over spaghetti squash with marinara sauce). There is an extensive gluten-free menu, many diner favorites (burgers, pasta, sandwiches, soups, salads, etc.) and breakfast is served throughout the day.

(203) 458-7380, shorelinediner.com | R.B. |

BY ERIK OFGANG

Hoodoo Brown Fires Up State Barbecue Fans

The first time I tasted Hoodoo Brown BBQ's food, I knew the new restaurant off of Route 7 in Ridgefield was poised to become a player on the budding Connecticut barbecue scene. I was just surprised by how quick it happened.

Since it opened on Memorial Day weekend, crowds have been drawn to Hoodoo Brown like bees to honey-flavored barbecue sauce. Seemingly overnight the place has joined places like Bear's Smokehouse Barbecue in Hartford and Windsor on top of most foodies' "barbecue in Connecticut" depth charts. Even on weeknights, the wait for a table can be as long as 45 minutes. Because menu items are slow-cooked daily and the barbecue joint's smoker is currently operating at capacity, Hoodoo's can run out of popular items like pork ribs by 7:30 or 8 p.m. each evening, if not earlier.

"We have been slamming busy since we opened," says Chris Sexton, the bar and front of house manager. "The customer feedback has been amazing, and has now levied into our best marketing program yet, word of mouth. If our biggest issue is we need to make more food to feed more people, well there are worse problems to have in the BBQ biz."

Plans are under way to fix this not-really-a-problem problem. Hoodoo Brown's will soon install an additional smoker, a move that will allow the restaurant to serve lunch (currently it opens at 4 p.m.) and offer takeout.

The Hoodoo Brown space itself has a laid-back cowboy feel, with wood décor and an open dining room that connects to a long bar where you can enjoy craft beer and cocktails while waiting for your table. Once you've tasted one of the place's signature dishes, you quickly realize what all the fuss is about.

Hoodoo Brown is named for the notorious leader of the Dodge City Gang in Las Vegas in the late 1800s and specializes in what it calls "outlaw barbeque," a mixing and matching of various barbecue styles from around the country.

"Our culinary team of owner Cody Sperry and his partner and expert pit master Nestor Laracuente wanted to take the barbecue from across the country and put their own spin on it," Sexton explains. "So instead of just doing it Texas-style, or Carolina-style, Memphis or Kansas City, they wanted to cherry-pick the best stuff from each."

Sexton and Sperry are both longtime Ridgefield residents who met while going to school in town. Prior to opening Hoodoo, Sperry operated the barbecue catering business CodyQ. He recruited Laracuente to head up the food side of his new restaurant. A veteran smoker, Laracuente had previously worked at Hometown Bar-B-Que in Brooklyn, a beloved New York City barbecue joint, but was convinced to join the Hoodoo Brown team after Sperry agreed to purchase a Lang 108 smoker, the only type of smoker Laracuente will cook on.

Today that Lang smoker, visible from the dining room through large glass windows, is being put to good use. Most meat is served by the half pound and I have not yet found a dish that isn't a winner.

The brisket and beef ribs are a nod to Texas-style barbecue. Each is made with a simple salt-and-pepper rub and smoked at a low temperature for as long as 16 hours. The result is moist, tender meat. The giant, like must-have-come-from-a-dinosaur big, beef ribs have become a particular obsession of mine. The equally good pork ribs are made in a St. Louis-style says Sexton, and the sweet house barbecue is influenced by Kansas City. He adds, "Our Carolina Gold and Mojo BBQ sauces come straight from the Carolinas and their approach to pork and whole hogs."

But with all these culinary inspirations from across the U.S., Hoodoo's still makes sure to throw a little love Connecticut's way by featuring Connecticut-brewed beer at its bar. "As much as we wanted to bring the

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Texas, Carolina, Kansas City styles of BBQ to Connecticut, we also wanted to bring Connecticut to Connecticut. That is why six of our taps rotate with some of our favorite Connecticut craft beers," Sexton says. The place regularly features brews from Thomas Hooker, Black Hog, Two Roads, Stony Creek and New England Brewing. It also offers some hard-to-find gems including a recent keg of New England Brewing Co.'s sought-after Fuzzy Baby Ducks and the elusive Sip of Sunshine brewed in Stratford at Two Roads for the Vermont-based brewery Lawson's Finest Liquids.

Beyond both types of ribs, the brisket and the beer, other standouts include pork belly (the must-try dish at Hoodoo's according to Sexton), and the BBQ nachos, served over chips with chopped brisket or pork, pit beans, jalapeños and smothered in fresh guacamole and sour cream—a delicious dish with one drawback: it's so filling it's hard to eat anything else after it.

There is also an assortment of excellent sides from mac and cheese to collard greens and pit beans. I've also heard a rumor that there are some excellent desserts but have always been to full from the barbecue to give one a whirl. But there's always next time.

Closed Mondays. Tues.-Thur. 4 p.m.-midnight, Fri.-Sat. 4 p.m.-1a.m., Sun. 4 p.m.-midnight. (203) 438-6033, hoodoobrownbbq.com | E.O. |

Hoodoo Brown creates terrific barbecue under the watch of pit master Nestor Laracuente (at right) including the pork belly (opposite page, top left) and the Texas poutine (above right). There's also an abundance of craft beer and other delicious sides and desserts.

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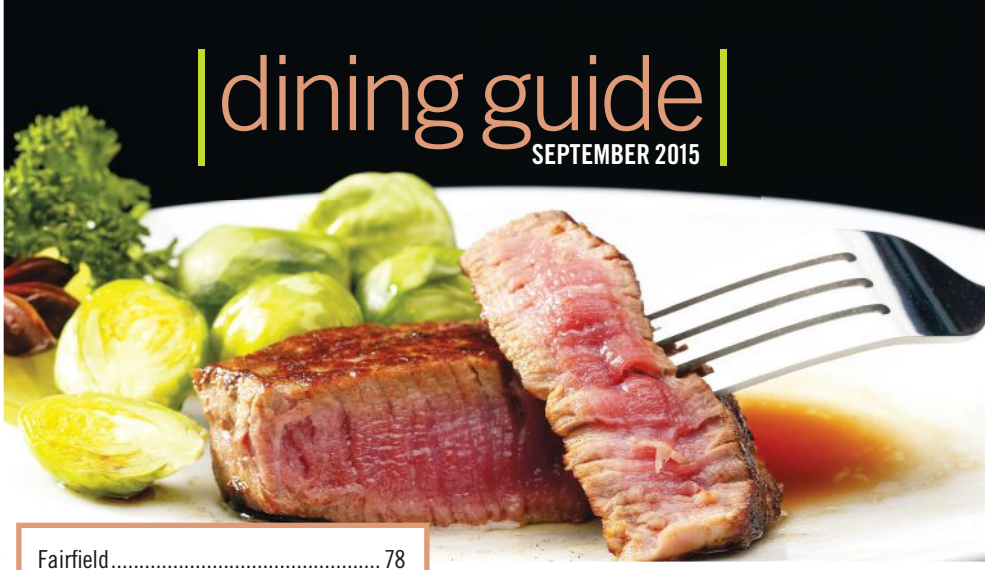

Fairfield 78
Hartford 79
Litchfield 79
Middlesex 82
New Haven 80
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Fairfield County

Aranci 67 • ***Italian*** Excellent Sorrento-style Italian food made by the former chef at Le Fontane. Menu includes best-in-class pasta dishes. • 7 Main St., Georgetown (Redding), (203) 587-1300 (aranci67.com). Closed Tues. D L (Sat.-Sun.), $$, WA

Artisan • ***New England*** A farm-to-table restaurant with New England-inspired seasonal cuisine. • 275 Old Post Rd., Southport, (203) 259-2800 (artisansouthport.com). Open daily. L D, $$, WA

Bernard's • ***French*** Consistently serving perfectly executed seasonal entrées in an elegant country setting. *Wine Spectator* Award of Excellence. • 20 West La., Ridgefield, (203) 438-8282 (bernardsridgefield.com). Closed Mon. L (Tues.-Sun.) D SB, $$$, E, WA

Bloodroot • ***Vegetarian*** Offers a seasonal menu that might include Vietnamese summer rolls, the Bloodroot burger and Mexican mole. • 85 Ferris St., Bridgeport, (203) 576-9168 (bloodroot.com). Closed Mon. L (Tues., Thurs.-Sat.) D SB, $$, WA

Bobby Q's Bodacious Barbeque & Grill • ***Barbecue*** The real deal: BBQ nachos, baby-back ribs, the brisket Reuben, burnt ends and lots more. • 42 Main St., Westport, (203) 454-7800 (bobbyqsrestaurant.com). Open daily. EL D, $$, E, WA

Brasitas • ***Latin Fusion*** Exciting contemporary Latin Fusion cuisine with traditional accents. • 430 Main Ave., Norwalk, (203) 354-7329; 954 E. Main St., Stamford, (203) 323-3176 (brasitas.com). Open daily. L, D, $$

The Capital Grille • ***Steak*** Located in the heart of downtown Stamford this classic-style steakhouse serves dry-aged porterhouse as well as creative seafood dishes like citrus-glazed salmon. • 230 Tresser Blvd., Stamford, (203) 967-0000 (thecapitalgrille.com). Open daily. L (Mon.-Fri.) D, $$$, E, WA

Cesco's Trattoria • ***Italian*** Chef Aldo Chiamulera's new restaurant is a sophisticated riff on an Old World country villa. *Wine Spectator* Award of Excellence. • 25 Old Kings Hwy., Darien, (203) 202-9985 (cescostrattoria.com). Open daily. L D, $$$, WA

Coromandel Cuisine of India • ***Indian*** A wide range of tasty Indian fare is served in a small, tastefully done space. • 25-11 Old Kings Hwy. N., Darien, (203) 662-1213; Coromandel Bistro, 86 Washington St., Norwalk, (203) 852-1213; 68 Broad St., Stamford, (203) 964-1010; 17 Pease Ave., Southport, (203) 259-1213 (coromandelcuisine.com). Open daily. L D SB, $$, WA

Dolce Cubano • ***Cuban*** A high-energy good time at this waterfront stunner. On the menu: Havana Buffalo wings, grilled oysters with tequila and sage butter and classic Spanish paella. • 78 Southfield Ave., Westport, (203) 817-0700 (dolcecubano.com). L D SB LS, $$

Elm • ***American*** World-class chef Brian Lewis makes culinary magic here—with the freshest local, top-quality ingredients—in an elegant minimalist environment. And there's a great Sunday brunch. • 73 Elm St., New Canaan, (203) 920-4994 (elmrestaurant.com). Closed Monday. D SB, $$$, WA [★★★ 11/13]

The Fez • ***Moroccan*** In addition to excellent Moroccan fare—with small plates (kabobs, falafel salad) and large (slow-braised lamb shank, swordfish tagine)—The Fez serves up equally as eclectic live music nightly. • 227 Summer St., Stamford, (203) 324-3391 (thefez1.com). Open daily. L (Mon.-Fri.) D LS, $$

Fin • ***Japanese*** Specializes in fresh, imaginative sushi and authentic Japanese cuisine. • 1253 Post Rd., Fairfield, (203) 255-6788; 219 Main St., Stamford, (203) 359-6688 (fin-sushi.com). Open daily. L D LS, $$, WA

F.I.S.H. • ***Seafood*** This mod-elegant restaurant features a variety of excellently prepared seafood favorites and a special section of the menu that lets you choose your fish and how it's cooked. • 245 Bedford St., Stamford, (203) 724-9300 (fishstamford.com). Open daily. L (Mon.-Thurs.) D, $$$, WA [★★★ 7/14]

Frank Pepe Pizzeria Napoletana • ***Pizza*** While world-famous white clam pizza is the standout, just about any pie here is worth the wait. • 238 Commerce Dr., Fairfield, (203) 333-7373; 59 Federal Rd., Danbury, (203) 790-7373 (pepespizzeria.com). Open daily. L D, $, WA

Gabriele's Italian Steakhouse • ***Italian*** Gabriele's is large and luxe, so are the steaks, which include filet mignon served on the bone, Wagyu and bone-in porterhouse. • 35 Church St., Greenwich, (203) 622-4223 (gabrielesofgreenwich.com). Open daily. D, $$$

Geronimo Tequila Bar & Southwest Grill • ***Southwestern Fusion*** A mix of traditional Native American, Mexican, Spanish and Anglo-American fare, with bold flavors and authentic ingredients. • 2070 Post Rd., Fairfield, (203) 955-1643 (geronimobarandgrill.com). Open daily. L D LS, $$ [★★ 7/13]

The Ginger Man • ***American*** A New England-style tavern with 52 beers on tap (and 80 in bottles), burgers, brick-grilled duck and New York strip. • 64 Greenwich Ave., Greenwich, (203) 861-6400, (gingermangreenwich.com). Open daily. L D LS SB, $$, WA

Hoodoo Brown Barbeque • ***American*** This laid-back barbecue bar and restaurant specializes in what the staff calls "outlaw barbecue," a delicious blend of Texas, Kansas City, Carolina and other styles that will leave you craving more. • 967 Ethan Allen Hwy., Ridgefield, (203) 438-6033 (hoodoobrownbbq.com). Closed Mon. D $$ WA

Joseph's Steakhouse • ***American*** Known for a New York-style steakhouse experience with gems such as prime dry-aged beef and its porterhouse steak for two. • 360 Fairfield Ave., Bridgeport, (203) 337-9944 (josephssteakhouse.com). Open daily. L (Mon.-Fri.) D, $$$, WA

l'escale • ***French*** A stylish, romantic dining room overlooking Greenwich Harbor that serves superb Provençal cuisine. • 500 Steamboat Rd., Delamar Greenwich Harbor, Greenwich, (203) 661-4600 (lescalerestaurant.com). B L D LS SB, $$, WA

Liana's Trattoria • ***Italian*** Liana DiMeglio's homemade pastas and sauces pack 'em in at this cozy little gem. • 591 Tunxis Hill Rd., Fairfield, (203) 368-1235. Closed Sun.-Mon. D, $$

Little Pub • ***American*** Great food, generous drinks, seasonal menus and a lively pub atmosphere where you'll feel right at home. • 59 Ethan Allen Hwy., Ridgefield, (203) 544-9222 (littlepub.com). Open daily. L D, $$

Market Place • ***American*** Featuring American farm-to-table cuisine with a locally sourced menu. • 33 Mill Plain Rd., Danbury, (203) 616-5836 (marketplacedanbury.com). Open daily. L D LS, $$, WA

CONNECTICUT Magazine's restaurant listings are presented as a service to our readers. Information on specialties, prices, etc., was supplied by the restaurateurs. Space limitations in this guide prevent us from describing every restaurant in the state; omission is not intended to reflect upon the quality of an establishment. The listings include restaurants we know and love, and those recommended to us by our readers. Advertisers are guaranteed inclusion in the month they advertise. Restaurants reviewed after January 2013 are listed with our critic's ratings (poor; fair; ★ good; ★★ very good; ★★★ superior; ★★★★ extraordinary). Average entrée prices are based on dinner entrées: $—inexpensive (under $15); $$—moderate ($15-$25); $$$—expensive (over $25). This guide is updated regularly, but it is suggested that prices and hours be verified by phone. B (Breakfast); L (Lunch); D (Dinner); LS (Late Supper); SB (Sunday Brunch); E (Live Entertainment); WA (Wheelchair Access)

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Match • ***American*** The farm-fresh, seasonal menu at this upscale SONO restaurant changes daily but always offers something intriguing. • 98 Washington St., South Norwalk, (203) 852-1088 (matchsono.com). Open daily. D L (Wed.-Fri.), $$$

Ondine • ***French*** Serves French dishes such as duck foie gras with rhubarb-and-fig compote. One of the classic Fairfield County restaurants. • 69 Pembroke Rd. (Rte. 37), Danbury, (203) 746-4900 (ondinerestaurant.com). Closed Mon.-Tues. D SB, $$$, WA

Pink Sumo • ***Sushi*** Sushi and other Japanese specialties are served in a sleek atmosphere along with sake and cocktails. • 4 Church La., Westport, (203) 557-8080 (pinksumoct.com). Open daily L D LS (Fri.-Sat.), $, WA

Pho Vietnam • ***Vietnamese*** A family-owned restaurant serving authentic Vietnamese food with fresh produce, choice meats and seafood. • 56 Padanaram Rd., Danbury, (203) 743-6049 (rivebistro.com). Open daily. L D, $$, WA

Redding Roadhouse • ***American*** This cozy, classic-style pub features seafood and meat classics as well as an assortment of artisan cheeses, a good beer list and specialty cocktails. • 406 Redding Rd., Redding, (203) 938-3388 (thereddingroadhouse.com). Open daily. L D SB, $$, E, WA

The Spinning Wheel • ***American*** Enjoy a quintessentially New England-inspired menu with seasonal specials, local and homegrown accents, and modern adaptations of traditional comfort dishes. This classic style pub has 12 types of beer on tap, a rum-inspired drink menu and is housed within a newly renovated historic saltbox style house that dates back to 1742. • 109 Black Rock Tpke., Redding, (203) 664-4000 (swredding.com). Open daily. L (Thur.-Sat.) D $$$, WA

Tazza Osteria • ***Creative Italian*** Try favorites like grilled octopus, hanger steak, meatballs and brick oven pizza in a modern and trendy atmosphere. • 116 Post Rd., Fairfield, (203) 292-8810 (tazzaosteriabar.com). Open daily. L (Mon.-Sat.) D, $$, W

Uberti's Fish Market • ***Seafood*** Specialties include fish-and-chips, stuffed scallops, lobster rolls and deep-fried lobster at this seafood market. • 88 Ferry Blvd., Stratford (203) 377-1429. Open daily. L D, $$, WA

Sal e Pepe Contemporary Italian Bistro • ***Northern Italian*** Offers superb cuisine with a contemporary flair, from fresh pastas and sauces to unique specials and classics with a modern twist. • 97 South Main St., Newtown, (203) 426-0805 (salepeperestaurant.com). Open daily. L D, $$, WA

Vespa • ***Italian*** Upscale dining with a frequently changing menu that utilizies local ingredients. • 2 Post Rd., Westport (203) 557-9057, vespawestport.com. D (Mon.-Sun.), $$, WA

Walrus + Carpenter • ***Barbecue*** Sink your teeth into the barbecue offered at this sleek eatery in the Black Rock section of Bridgeport. The customer favorite is the Notorious P.I.G. • 2895 Fairfield Ave., Bridgeport (203) 333-2733 (walruscarpenterct.com). Open daily. L D, $$ WA

Hartford County

Abigail's Grille and Wine Bar • ***American*** A completely remodeled 1780 tavern blending classic charm with upscale casual dining. Try Gorgonzola-topped pork chops or cedar-plank Atlantic salmon. • 4 Hartford Rd., Simsbury, (860) 264-1580 (abigailsgrill.com). Open daily. L (Mon.-Fri.) D SB, $$, WA

Artisanal Burger Company • ***American*** Gourmet burgers are the specialty here but they are only the beginning of the culinary delights diners will experience at the restaurant. • 1436 Pleasant Valley Rd., Manchester, (860) 644-0046 (artisanalburgercompany.com). Open daily. L D LS, $$, WA [★★½ 5/15]

À Vert Brasserie • ***French*** Owned by two chefs who in recent years have been making the Connecticut foodie world sit up and take notice, this restaurant offers beautiful food combined with imagination, perfectionism and zest. • 35 LaSalle Rd., West Hartford, (860) 904-6240 (avertbrasserie.com). Open daily. L D, LS, $$, WA

Barcelona Restaurant & Wine Bar • ***Spanish Mediterranean*** Barcelona's newest location in a popular line of hip, European-style restaurants. • 971 Farmington Ave., West Hartford, (860) 218-2100 (barcelonawinebar.com). Open daily. L (Mon.-Sat.) D LS, $$, E, WA

Bear's Smokehouse Barbecue • ***Barbecue*** Let your inner bear roar at these finger-lickin' good Kansas City-style barbecue joints owned by competitive eating champion Jamie McDonald. • 89 Arch St., Hartford, (860) 724-3100; 2152 Poquonock Ave.,Windsor, (860) 999-3834 (bearsbbq.com). Open daily. L D, $$, WA

Carbone's Kitchen • ***Italian*** Established in 2012, this casual-dining little brother to Carbone's Ristorante uses fresh and local ingredients to prepare old-school Italian classics. • 6 Wintonbury Mall, Bloomfield, (860) 904-2111 (carboneskitchen.com). Open daily. L (Mon.-Fri.) D, $$, WA

Carbone's Ristorante • ***Italian*** This old-school, fine-dining Italian restaurant was established in 1938 and has survived as long as it has for a reason. Dishes include lobster risotto, grilled veal chop and eggplant, chicken and veal parmigiano. • 588 Franklin Ave., Hartford, (860) 296-9646 (carbonesct.com). Closed Sun. L (Mon.-Fri.) D, $$$, WA

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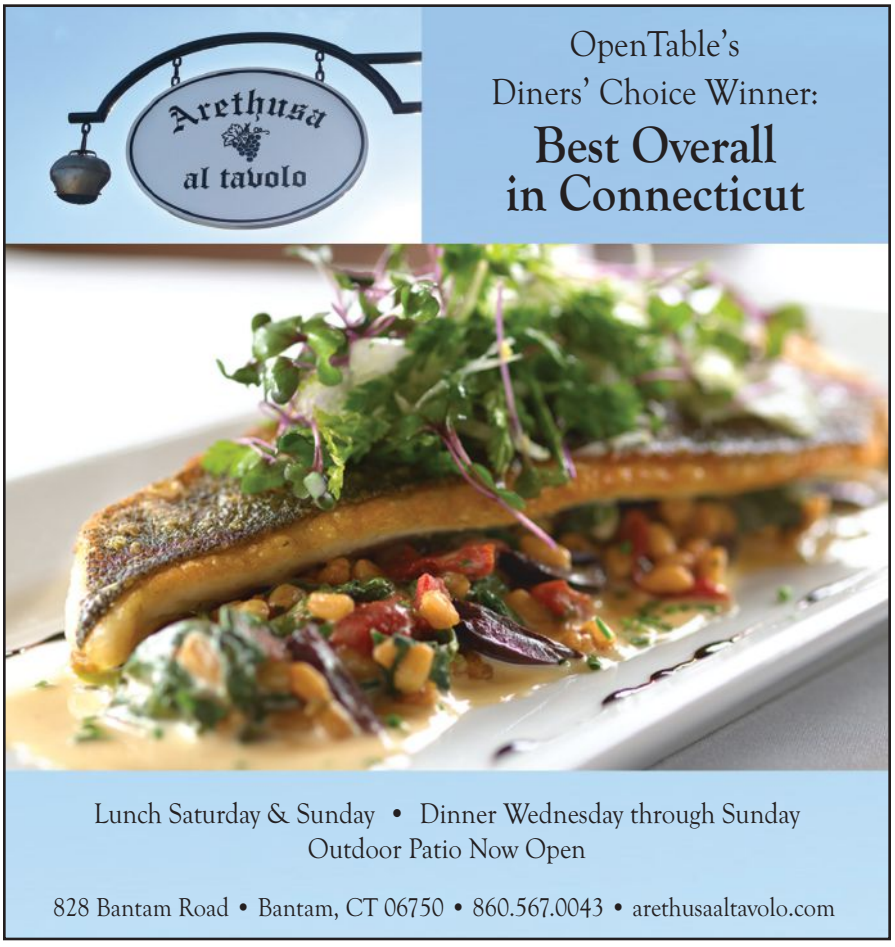

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Cavey's Restaurant • ***Italian/French*** Choose from handmade pasta and house-cured salumi in the Northern Italian restaurant upstairs, or soufflé and buttery foie gras in the luxurious French restaurant downstairs. Enjoy a cocktail with some light jazz in a casual lounge while you decide.• 45 E. Center St., Manchester, (860) 463-2751 (caveysrestaurant.com). Closed Mon. D, $$, E, WA

Confetti • ***Italian*** Offers Italian-American cuisine with a celebratory vibe. Also caters and operates the Big Red Truck food truck. • 393 Farmington Ave., Plainville, (860) 793-8809 (idineconfetti.com). Closed Mon. & Tues. D (Wed.-Sun.) SB, $$

Doogie's Hot Dogs • ***American*** Featured on Travel Channel's "Man vs. Food," this road-food way station is home to the two-foot hot dog. Other specialties include burgers, fries, seafood and Philly cheese steaks. • 225 Berlin Tpke., Broad St., Newington, (860) 666-DOGS (doogieshotdogs.com). Open daily. L D, $, WA

Firebox • ***New American*** Firebox boasts a seasonal, Connecticut farm-inspired menu including seared Stonington scallops and Connecticut farm-raised lamb. • 539 Broad St., Hartford, (860) 246-1222 (fireboxrestaurant.com). Open daily. L (Mon.-Fri.) D, $$, E, WA

First & Last Tavern • ***Italian*** Offers authentic Italian cuisine such as salads, pastas and brick oven pizzas in a casual atmosphere. • 939 Maple Ave., Hartford, (860) 956-6000; (bakery cafe) 920 Maple Ave., Hartford, (860) 956-7000; 26 West Main St., Avon, (860) 626-2000; 220 Main St., Middletown, (860) 347-2220; 32 Cooke St., Plainville, (860) 747-9100 (firstandlasttavern.com). Open daily. L D, $$, WA

Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar • ***American*** A premier destination for prime meats and chops, fresh fish and poultry, with a sophisticated wine list. • Blue Back Square, 44 South Main St., West Hartford, (860) 676-WINE (flemingssteakhouse.com). Open daily. D, $$, WA

Frank Pepe Pizzeria Napoletana • ***Pizza*** While world-famous white clam pizza is the standout, any pie here is worth the wait. • 1148 New Britain Ave., West Hartford, (860) 236-7373; 221 Buckland Hills Dr., Manchester, (860) 644-7333 (pepespizzeria.com). Open daily. L (Mon.-Fri.) D, $, WA

GoldBurgers • ***Burgers*** The big (with a capital B) juicy specialties at GoldBurgers are all made with locally sourced beef and include the venue's namesake, the GoldBurger, a monster of a burger made with two patties and crowned by potato chips. • 1096 Main St., Newington, (860) 665-0478. Open daily. L D, $, WA

Grants Restaurant, Bar & Patisserie • ***Continental*** A West Hartford institution serving inventive dishes like braised lamb shank, pistachio-crusted Idaho trout and chocolate-caramel opera cake. • 977 Farmington Ave., West Hartford, (860) 236-1930 (billygrant.com). Open daily. L (Mon.-Sat.) D, $$, WA

Joey Garlic's • ***Italian*** Enjoy New Haven-style brick-oven pizzas, fresh-ground burgers, grinders and pasta in a family-friendly atmosphere. • 150 Kitts La., Newington, (860) 372-4620; 372 Scott Swamp Rd., Farmington, (860) 678-7231; 353 Park Rd., West Hartford, (860) 523-5639 (joeygarlics.com). Open daily. L D, $, WA

Max Downtown • ***American*** A Hartford mainstay featuring global cuisine, chophouse classics, a fine wine list and lighter fare in the tavern. *Wine Spectator* Award of Excellence. • 185 Asylum St., Hartford, (860) 522-2530 (maxrestaurantgroup.com). Open daily. L (Mon.-Fri.) D LS, $$$, WA

Max Fish • ***Seafood*** A lively, upscale fish house serving a daily selection of fresh seafood and great steaks. The Shark Bar is more casual, offering lighter fare and Max classics in an up-tempo environment. • 110 Glastonbury Blvd., Glastonbury, (860) 652-3474 (maxfishct.com). Open daily. L (Mon.-Sat.) D LS, $$

Metro Bis • ***American*** The restaurant's got a lovely new home at Simsbury 1820 House, but the focus hasn't changed—classically grounded innovation, seasonally oriented and ever open to a playful riff or two. • 731 Hopmeadow St., Simsbury, (860) 651-1908 (metrobis.com). Closed Sun. L D, $$, WA

The Mill on the River • ***American*** Pan-seared Chilean sea bass and pork chop Milanese are tops at this former gristmill. *Wine Spectator* Award of Excellence. • 989 Ellington Rd., South Windsor, (860) 289-7929 (themillontheriver.com). Open daily. L (Mon.-Fri.) D SB, $$, WA

Millwright's Restaurant • ***American*** Tyler Anderson dazzled us for years at The Copper Beech Inn. Now, he's wowing all comers at this sparkling restaurant. • 77 West St., Simsbury, (860) 651-5500 (millwrightsrestaurant.com). Closed Mon.-Tues. D, $$$, WA

ON20 • ***Contemporary French/American*** Savor panaromic city views and sophisticated atmosphere along with sumptuous seasonal cuisine. • 400 Columbus Blvd., 20th Floor, Hartford, (860) 722-5161 (ontwenty.com). L (Mon.-Fri.) D (Wed.-Sat.), $$ (L) $$$ (D), E

Pit Stop BBQ • ***Barbecue*** Carolina pulled pork and steamed cheeseburgers, plus a feast of homemade sides including cole slaw, soups and chili. • 985 W. Main St., New Britain, (860) 229-4111. Closed Sun. L, $

Republic • ***Gastropub*** Handcrafted beers, boutique wines and small-batch bourbons are offered at this high-end pub. • 39 Jerome Ave., Bloomfield, (860) 216-5852 (republicct.com). Open daily. L (Mon.-Fri.) D LS, $$ [★★½ 10/14]

Ruth's Chris Steakhouse • ***Steak*** Billed as "the steak that speaks for itself" the steaks served here are USDA Prime. In addition, the restaurant utilizes locally sourced produce in its recipes. • 2513 Berlin Tpke., Newington, (860) 666-2202 (ruthschris.com). L (Sun.) D $$$, WA

Salute • ***Italian/American*** It's like a classy party every night at this restaurant, where diners enjoy everything from traditional pasta dishes (including gluten-free choices) to giobatto, a robust chicken-sausage stew in a spicy broth served over fettucine. • 100 Trumbull St., Hartford, (860) 899-1350 (salutect.com). Open daily. L (Mon.-Sat.) D, $$, WA

Shady Glen • ***American*** A dairy bar/restaurant known for cheeseburgers and ice cream. • 840 Middle Tpke. E., Manchester, (860) 649-4245; 360 Middle Tpke. W., Manchester, (860) 643-0511. Open daily. L D, $, WA

Sorella • ***Italian*** A new kid on the block from restaurant pros Billy Carbone and Dan Keller, who own Dish across the street. • 901 Main St., Hartford, (860) 244-9084 (sorellahartford.com). L (Mon.-Sat.) D $$, WA

Tisane Euro-Asian Café • ***Asian Fusion*** The diverse menu is complemented by over 40 specialty martinis and other specialty drinks. Try the Far East nachos, wings trio, Tisane Cobb salad, noodle bowls and espresso steak. • 537 Farmington Ave., Hartford, (860) 523-5417 (mytisane.com). Open daily. L D SB, $, E, WA

Treva Restaurant • ***Italian*** Offers chef-inspired Northern Italian cuisine—bronzino, tagliardi and porchetta—in a warm, rustic and casual environment. Treva's mixologists create a wide range of cocktails. • 980 Farmington Ave., West Hartford, (860) 232-0407 (trevact.com). Open daily. L (Mon.-Fri.) D SB LS, $$

Trumbull Kitchen • ***American*** "Global comfort food" is served at communal tables at this sophisticated city brasserie. *Wine Spectator* Award of Excellence. • 150 Trumbull St., Hartford, (860) 493-7417 (maxrestaurantgroup.com). Open daily. L (Mon.-Sat.) D LS, $$, E

Vinted Wine Bar & Kitchen • ***Tapas*** This exciting restaurant in Blue Back Square serves 68 wines by the glass along with an ambitious small-plates menu. 63 Memorial Rd., West Hartford, (860) 206-4648 (vintedwinebar.com). Open daily. D, $$, WA

The Willows • ***American*** A suave boîte in the DoubleTree Hotel helmed by star chef Leo Bushey III. On the menu: vanilla-poached lobster, pot-au-feu and pork tenderloin roulade with sun-dried fruit. • 42 Century Dr., Bristol, (860) 589-7766 (doubletree-bristol.com). Open daily 5 to 10. D, $$$, WA [★★★½ 8/13]

Wood-n-Tap • ***American*** Hip, fun eateries known for great burgers and great beer. You'll also love the pizza, pasta, salads, nachos and sandwiches. • 99 Sisson Ave., Hartford, (860) 232-TAPS; 1274 Farmington Ave., Farmington, (860) 773-OPEN; 420 Queen St., Southington, (860) 329-0032; 12 Town Line Rd., Rocky Hill, (860) 571-9444 (woodntap.com). Open daily. L D LS, $, WA

Litchfield County

Arethusa al Tavolo • ***New American*** This high-flying country restaurant serves sparkling dishes like butter-poached halibut with crab paella, rack of lamb and a glorious reinvention of Peking duck. • 828 Bantam Rd., Bantam, (860) 567-0043 (arethusaaltavolo.com). Open Thurs.-Sun. D, $$$, WA

Backstage • ***American*** Enjoy casual American fare prepared from scratch—salads and soups, creative small plates, hand-formed Angus patties on house-baked rolls—and 40 beers on tap. • 84 Main St., Torrington, (860) 489-8900 (backstageeatdrinklive.com). Open daily. L D LS SB, $$, E, WA

Carmen Anthony Fishhouse • ***Seafood & Steak*** Carmen Anthony offers an impressive variety of fresh-only seafood, big Maine lobsters (up to five pounds) and thick Black Angus steaks. *Wine Spectator* Award of Excellence. • 757 Main St., Woodbury, (203) 266-0011. Open daily. L D LS, $$$, E, WA

Carole Peck's Good News Cafe • ***New American*** Chef Carole Peck offers original dishes like warm crab taco and chicken tagine. • 694 Main St. S., Woodbury, (203) 266-GOOD (goodnews-cafe.com). Closed Tues. L D, $$

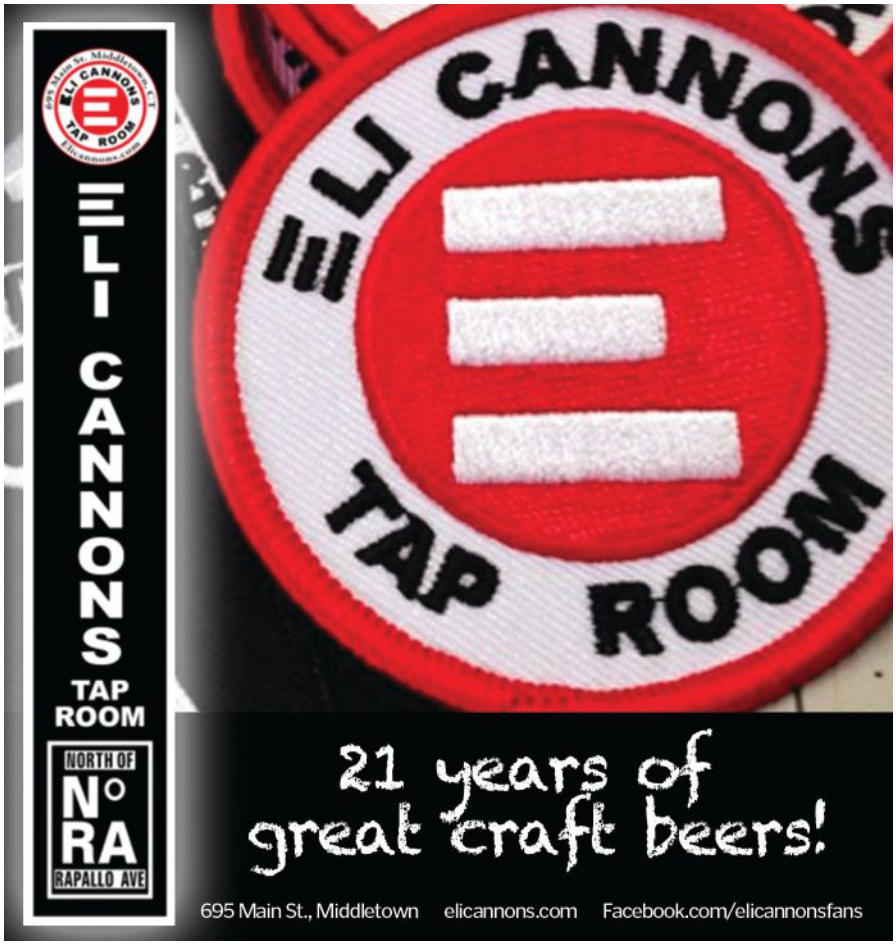
Community Table • ***American*** Chef Joel Viehland offers a seasonal menu using only ingredients grown, raised or foraged within a 200-mile radius. • 223 Litchfield Tpke., Washington, (860) 868-9354 (communitytablect.com). Closed Tues.-Wed. D SB, $$, WA

The Cookhouse • ***Barbecue*** "Slo-smoked" baby-back ribs and pulled pork are the name of the game here. • 31 Danbury Rd. (Rte. 7), New Milford, (860) 355-4111 (thecookhouse.com). Open daily. L D, $$, WA

Gifford's • ***American*** Enjoy a melting pot of a menu that features the flavors of Thailand, Tuscany, Vietnam, Morroco and France, as well as local farm fare. In winter guests can enjoy a fireplace, in summer they can eat outside on an awning-shaded dining terrace. • 9 Maple St., Kent, (860) 592-0262 (jpgifford.com). Closed Mon.-Tues. D, $$$, WA [★★½ 6/14]

The Hopkins Inn • ***Austrian/American*** A country inn with an Old World atmosphere known for wiener schnitzel, backhendl and fresh-caught trout. • 22 Hopkins Rd., Warren, (860) 868-7295. Closed Mon. B L (Tues.-Sat.) D, $$$

John's Café • ***New American*** A popular spot for New American cuisine with a Mediterranean accent: grilled pizzas, ricotta gnocchi and salmon with morels. *Wine Spectator* Award of Excellence. • 693 Main St. S., Woodbury, (203) 263-0188 (johnscafe.com). Open daily. L (Mon.-Sat.) D, $$, WA



Enjoy classic Italian fare and fresh seafood dishes
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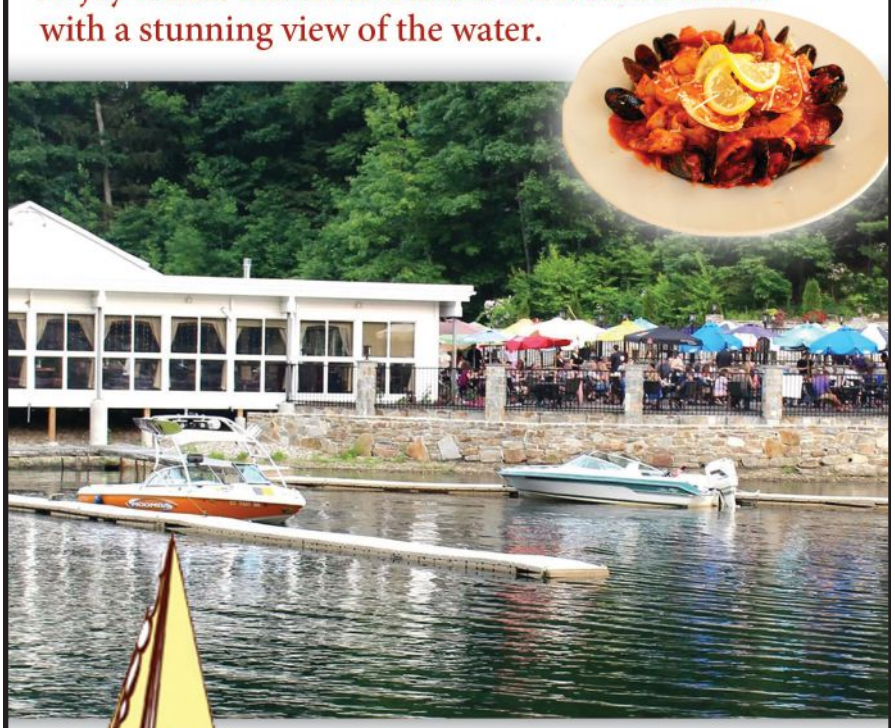

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dining guide | litchfield county

Longwood Country Inn • ***New England*** Enjoy fine dining in a historic 1789 inn where the options include lobster bisque, seafood crêpes and roast quail. • 1204 Main St. S., Woodbury, (203) 266-0800 (longwoodcountryinn.com). Closed Mon. L (Tues.-Sat.) D (Tues.-Sat.) SB, $$, WA

The Painted Pony • ***American*** This cozy spot offers a variety of dishes, from prime rib and steak to pasta and pizza. Live entertainment every Thurs. • 74 Main St. (Rte. 61), Bethlehem, (203) 266-5771 (paintedponyrestaurant.com). Open daily. L (Mon.-Sat.) D, $, E, WA

Pastorale • ***French/Mediterranean*** Housed in a 1760s Colonial, Pastorale uses local and organic ingredients in dishes like pan-seared Idaho rainbow trout, chicken paillard and moules marinière. • 223 Main St., Lakeville, (860) 435-1011 (pastoralebistro.com). Closed Mon. D SB, $$, WA

Patty's Restaurant • ***American*** A delightful breakfast experience with generous portions—the menu is influenced by season and might include treats such as raisin French toast or apple, walnut and cranberry pancakes. • 499 Bantam Rd., Litchfield, (860) 567-3335. Open daily. B L $

The Restaurant at Winvian • ***French*** Chef Chris Eddy constantly changes the menu, using simple and seasonal ingredients accented with unusual and fresh findings. • 155 Alain White Rd., Morris, (860) 567-9600 (winvian.com). Closed Mon.-Tues. L D, $$$, WA

River Bistro • ***Mediterranean*** Located on the banks of the Housatonic River, River Bistro offers fine Mediterranean cuisine with a Spanish accent. The house specialties include a variety of tapas and traditional paella. • 300 Kent Rd., New Milford, (860) 355-4466 (riverbistro.net). Closed Mon.-Tues. L (Sun.) D, $$, WA

Salsa Restaurant • ***Southwestern*** Salsa highlights Southwestern cuisine with house-made mild-to-hot New Mexican-style dishes, fajitas, quesadillas and house-made salsas. • 31 Bank St., New Milford, (860) 350-0701. Closed Mon. L D, $, WA

Scarpelli's • ***American*** Since 1936, Scarpelli's has been offering classic comfort foods like chicken parmigiana, meat loaf, fried chicken and fish-and-chips. • 865 Migeon Ave., Torrington, (860) 482-7977 (scarpellisclassiccatering.com). Open daily. B L D, $$, WA

Venetian Restaurant • ***Classic Italian*** Enjoy seasonal specials and traditional fare like house-made pasta. • 52 East Main St., Torrington, (860) 489-8592 (thevenetianrestaurant.com). Closed Tues. L (Mon.-Sat.) D, $$, WA

The Village Restaurant • ***American*** A historic pub and restaurant in the heart of Litchfield. Veal Bartalucci, Parmesan-and-horseradish-encrusted salmon and cheeseburgers top the menu. • 25 West St., Litchfield, (860) 567-8307 (village-litchfield.com). Open daily. L D, $$

West Street Grill • ***New American*** An innovative restaurant with a star-studded clientele and menu to match. Serves wild fish, handmade pasta and organic salads. *Wine Spectator* Award of Excellence. • 43 West St., Litchfield, (860) 567-3885 (weststreetgrill.com). Open daily. L D SB, $$$, R (on weekends), WA

The White Hart • ***Farm to Table*** High-quality cuisine made from an A-list of farm sources served in a rustic, recently remodeled historic country inn dating to 1805. • 15 Under Mountain Rd., Salisbury, (860) 435-0030 (whitehartinn.com). Open daily. L D SB, $$, WA [★★★ 6/15]

The White Horse Country Pub • ***American*** Serves American pub favorites like burgers, ribs and seafood bake, along with some English ones—shepherd's pie, fish-and-chips and bangers and mash. • 258 New Milford Tpke., Washington, (860) 868-1496 (whitehorse-countrypub.com). Open daily. L D SB, $$, WA

Yokohama • ***Japanese*** Delicious tempura and teriyaki dishes, plus sushi and sashimi. • 131 Danbury Rd., New Milford, (860) 355-0556 (yokohama-sushi.net). Open daily. L D, $$, WA

Middlesex County

Alforno • ***Northern Italian*** Known for a great selection of house-made ravioli, including veal osso buco with fresh ricotta ravioli, butternut squash ravioli and wild boar ravioli, as well as tagliatelle Bolognese and arugula chicken. • 1654 Boston Post Rd., Old Saybrook, (860) 399-4166 (alforno.net). Open daily. L D, $$, WA

Angelico's Lake House • ***American*** Overlooking Lake Pocotopaug, Angelico's features great outside dining and a tiki hut. Try the spinach risotto, roast prime rib, stuffed salmon or lobster ravioli with sautéed shrimp. • 81 North Main St., East Hampton, (860) 267-1276 (angelicoslakehouse.com). Open daily. L D LS SB, $$, E, WA

Baci Grill • ***Modern Italian*** Try house specialties like grilled mango-and-chipotle pork loin, chicken sausage and broccoli rabe pasta, Guinness skirt steak and scallop risotto at this casual, trendy restaurant. • 134 Berlin Rd., Cromwell, (860) 613-2224 (bacigrill.com). Open daily. L D LS, $$, E, WA

Boom on the Water • ***American*** Dine on the outdoor deck overlooking a sea of yachts. Favorites include fried oysters, filet mignon Oscar with crabmeat-sherry cream and BBQ duck quesadillas. • Brewer's Pilots Point Marina, 63 Pilots Point Dr., Westbrook, (860) 399-2322 (boomrestaurant.net). Open daily. L D SB, $$, WA

Chicago Sam's • ***American*** This beloved sports bar takes sports fanaticism to new heights showing every NFL, MLB, NBA and NHL game. When it comes to the menu this place is also a winner. •

51 Shunpike Rd., Cromwell, (860) 635-1860 (chicagosams.com). Open daily. L D LS, $, E, WA

Cuckoo's Nest • ***Mexican*** Housed in a 200-year-old barn, Cuckoo's Nest has been serving nachos, fajitas, Cajun shrimp and scallops for over 35 years. • 1712 Post Rd., Old Saybrook, (860) 399-9060 (cuckoosnest.biz). Open daily. L D SB, $$, E, WA

El Pulpo Restaurant & Tapas Bar • ***Mediterranean*** Paella de mariscos and Vieiras a la Plancha (grilled diver sea scallops and lobster over fray fontina cheese risotto and champagne sauce) are among the highlights of this upscale and romantic restaurant. • 386 Main St., Middletown. Open daily L D, $$

Eli Cannon's • ***Beer Bar*** The Connecticut innovator of the modern beer bar, Eli Cannon's has been pouring sought-after brews since long before it was a trendy business model. Food favorites here include the famous nachos, chicken wings (there's 20 custom sauces), the classic cannon burger and the blackened chicken wrap.• 695 Main St., Middletown, (860) 347-3547 (elicannons.com). Closed Mon. L (Fri.-Sun.) D LS, $$, WA

Fresh Salt • ***American*** Drink in the glorious water view while savoring cioppino, merlot-braised short ribs, osso buco and Block Island swordfish. • 2 Bridge St., Old Saybrook, (860) 395-2000 (saybrook.com). Open daily. B L (Mon.-Sat.) D SB, $$$, E, WA

Gabrielle's • ***American Bistro*** Gabrielle's is an upscale bistro serving grilled tenderloin of beef, pan-seared scallops and pan-roasted fillet of salmon. • 78 Main St., Centerbook, (860) 767-2440 (gabrielles.net). Open daily. L (Mon.-Fri.) D SB, $$, WA

Gelston House • ***American*** This historic restaurant offers unparalleled views of the Goodspeed Opera House and the Connecticut River. Entrées include pan-seared duck breast, filet mignon and lamb ragout. • 8 Main St., East Haddam, (860) 873-1411 (gelstonhouse.com). Closed Mon. L (Tues.-Sun.) D LS SB, $$, E, WA

Good Elephant at Restaurant L&E • ***Vietnamese*** The elephant in this room is flavor—and lots of it. From five spice duck to sushi-grade tuna this restaurant serves the salty, sour, bitter and sweet flavors of Vietnamese cuisine. • 59 Main St., Chester, (860) 526-5301 (goodelephantcafe.com). D (Wed.-Sat.) $$ [★★½ 7/15]

The Griswold Inn • ***American*** The beloved 1776 "Gris" features classic New England cuisine in the dining room, small plates and 50 wines by the glass in the wine bar, and a lively taproom. *Wine Spectator* Award of Excellence. • 36 Main St., Essex, (860) 767-1776 (griswoldinn.com). Open daily. L D SB, $$$, E, WA

La Boca Mexican Restaurant and Cantina • ***Mexican*** Sizzling fajitas, carne asada, grilled mahi mahi and the La Boca classic burrito are just some of the Mexican cuisine favorites offered at this fun restaurant with a patio and live music. • 337 Main St., Middletown, (860) 347-4777 (labocamexican.com). Open daily. L D LS, $$, E, WA

La Foresta • ***Italian*** This big and beautiful ristorante serves garden-fresh, ingredient-driven, fine Northern Italian cuisine. It also has a VIP wine cellar and one of the state's best wine selections. • 163 Route 81, Killingworth, (860) 663-1155 (laforestarestaurant.com). Open daily. D, $$, WA [★★★ 3/15]

Lenny & Joe's Fish Tale • ***Seafood*** This Connecticut institution serves all manner of fresh seafood, from hot lobster rolls to baked stuffed shrimp to fried whole-belly clams. • 86 Boston Post Rd., Westbrook, (860) 669-0767 (ljfishtale.com). Open daily. L D, $$, WA

Liv's Oyster Bar • ***Seafood*** Liv's is a stylish, small neighborhood restaurant housed in an old movie theater. Stonington sea scallops, wild salmon, organic chicken and heirloom vegetables top the menu. • 166 Main St., Old Saybrook, (860) 395-5577 (livsoysterbar.com). Closed Tues. D, $$, WA

Luigi's • ***Italian*** Enjoy classic Italian favorites like seafood cannelloni, chicken leonardo, veal parmigiana, whole clams, prime rib and other dishes in a warm, home-like atmosphere. • 1295 Boston Post Road, Old Saybrook, (860) 388-9190 (luigis-restaurant.com). Closed Monday (except in July and August). D, $$, WA

Mondo Restaurant • ***Pizza*** This casual, family-owned restaurant specializes in brick oven New York-style thin crust pizza. There is also a beer and wine bar. • 10 Main St., Middletown, (860) 343-3300 (mondomiddletown.com). Open daily, L D $$, WA

NoRA Cupcakes • ***Bakery*** The offbeat and creative cupcakes here are beloved far and wide. The cupcake shop also features coffee, croissants, soup, bread and more. If you can't make it to Middletown keep an eye out for Lil' NoRA Cupcake Truck. • 700 Main St., Middletown, (860) 788-3150 (noracupcake.com). Closed Mon. $

Restaurant L&E/French 75 Bar • ***French*** Upstairs you'll find formal, elegant dining and a seasonal menu while downstairs offers a more traditional bistro experience. • 59 Main St., Chester, (860) 526-5301 (restaurantlande.com). Open daily. D LS, $$$, WA

River Tavern • ***American*** Farm-to-table pioneer Jonathan Rapp wears top toque at this town fixture. On the menu: made-to-order guacamole, grilled Stonington swordfish, New York strip. • 23 Main St., Chester, (860) 526-9417 (rivertavernrestaruant.com). Open daily. L D $$

The Tea Kettle Restaurant • ***Breakfast*** This breakfast and brunch destination specializes in gluten-free and paleo dishes from pancakes and muffins to waffles and eggs benedict. The jumbo-sized pancakes are popular. • 1395 Boston Post Rd., Old Saybrook, (860) 577-5039 (theteakettlerestaurant.com). Open daily. B L $, E, WA

Westbrook Lobster • ***Seafood*** Offers the freshest fish possible in dishes ranging from baked stuffed lobster to teriyaki-grilled salmon to seafood paella. • 346 Boston Post Rd., Clinton, (860) 664-9464 (westbrooklobster.com). Open daily. L D, $$, WA

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New Haven County

116 Crown • *American Tapas/Small Plates* Dine on sliders, pizzettes and charcuterie and cheese in a loungelike atmosphere—along with exciting and creative house cocktails. • 116 Crown St., New Haven, (203) 777-3116 (116crown.com). D LS, $$, E, WA

121 Restaurant @ OXC • *American* Watch the planes take off and land at 121, located at the Waterbury-Oxford Airport. The menu runs from great pizzas and burgers to an eclectic mix of American favorites. • 7 Juliano Dr., Oxford, (203) 262-0121 (121restaurantgroup.com/oxc). Closed Mon. L D, $$, E, WA

Aldario's Restaurant • *Classic Italian* Featuring rich colors, cozy booths and vaulted ceilings, this spot serves pork osso buco and zuppa di pesce. • 240 Naugatuck Ave., Milford, (203) 874-6096 (aldarios.com). Closed Mon. L D, $$, WA

Archie Moore's Bar & Restaurant • *American* Casual pub-style dining with burgers, nachos and salads. And don't miss the award-winning buffalo chicken wings. • 188½ Willow St., New Haven, (203) 773-9870; 39 N. Main St., Wallingford, (203) 265-7100; 15 Factory La., Milford, (203) 876-5088, (archiemoores.com). Open daily. L D LS, $

Ballou's Restaurant & Wine Bar • *Italian* A casual and relaxed wine bar. Full menu with fondue and much more. Has an outdoor, dog friendly patio and gluten free menu. • 51 Whitefield St., Guilford, (203) 453-0319 (ballouswinebar.com). Open daily. L D, $$

Bar Bouchée • *French* Jean Pierre Vuillermet's classic bistro has a black-and-white tile floor, pressed-tin-style walls and ceiling and a zinc bar. On the menu: duck leg confit, charcuterie and beef bourguignon. • 8 Scotland Rd., Madison, (203) 318-8004. Open daily. D, $$

Barcelona Restaurant & Wine Bar • *Spanish Mediterranean* A hip restaurant serving Spanish and Mediterranean cuisine—including tapas, hot and cold. *Wine Spectator* Award of Excellence. • 155 Temple St., New Haven, (203) 848-3000 (barcelonawinebar.com). Open daily. L D LS, $$, WA

Bin 100 • *Mediterranean* Feast on delicious Mediterranean cuisine elegantly served in a spacious dining room. • 100 Lansdale Ave., Milford, (203) 882-1400 (bin100restaurant.com). Open daily. D SB, $$, E, WA

Bistro Mediterranean • *Mediterranean* This casual and relaxed restaurant has Spanish and Mediterranean influences and offers a variety of beloved dishes including scallops parrilla, paella and brussels sprout salad. • 383 Main St., East Haven, (203) 467-2500, (bistromediterraneanandtapasbar.com). Open daily. L D, $$, WA

The Cask Republic • *Gastropub* Beer is the star here, with 125 bottled and more than 50 draft beers on offer. Pair it with dishes like sweet-potato clam chowder, oyster sliders and pan-seared sea scallops. • 179 Crown St., New Haven, (475) 238-8335 (thecaskrepublic.com). Closed Sun. L D, $$, WA

Ceviche • *Latin Fusion* Several different styles of ceviche are offered here. In addition the place features a variety of sizzling Latin dishes, cocktails and 30 different types of tapas. Try the Granada Mojito, which features pomegranate flavors. • 530 Middlebury Rd., Middlebury, (203) 527-7634 (cevichelatinkitchen.com). Closed Monday. L (Wed.-Thurs.) D LS, $$, WA

Claire's Corner Copia • *Vegetarian* A café-style spot offering globe-trotting dishes like organic-mushroom crêpes, Bengal curry, Irish breakfast and Lithuanian coffee cake. • 1000 Chapel St., New Haven, (203) 562-3888 (clairescornercopia.com). Open daily. B L D SB, $, WA

Consiglio's Restaurant • *Classic Italian* Family-owned and -run for over 70 years, Consiglio's is known for classic home-style favorites like homemade cavatelli and braciole, eggplant rollatini and lasagna. • 165 Wooster St., New Haven, (203) 865-4489 (consiglios.com). Open daily. L (Tues.-Fri., Sun.) D, $$

Frank Pepe Pizzeria Napoletana • *Pizza* While world-famous white clam pizza is the standout, just about any pie here is worth the wait. • 157 Wooster St., New Haven, (203) 865-5762 (pepespizzeria.com). Open daily. L (Mon.-Fri.) D, $, WA

Geronimo Tequila Bar & Southwest Grill • *Southwestern Fusion* A mix of traditional Native American, Mexican, Spanish and Anglo-American fare, with bold flavors and authentic ingredients. • 271 Crown St., New Haven, (203) 777-7700 (geronimobarandgrill.com). Open daily. L (Mon.-Sat.) D, $$ [★★ 7/13]

Goodfellas Restaurant • *Italian* The extensive menu is a veritable Best Hits of Italy, featuring pastas and gnocchi, pork chop Milanese, steak pizzaiola, veal saltimbocca and the chef's signature filet cognac. • 702 State St., New Haven, (203) 785-8722 (goodfellasrestaurant.com). Open daily. L D, $$, WA

Heirloom • *Modern Continental* Chef Carey Savona serves dishes like crab cakes with fennel and vermouth butter and herbed gnocchi with rapini and tomatoes. • The Study at Yale, 1157 Chapel St., New Haven, (203) 503-3919 (studyhotels.com). Open daily. B L (Mon.-Sat.) D SB, $$, WA

J. Christian's • *New American* A smart, lively restaurant and lounge that takes no shortcuts in preparing New American cuisine with a Southern accent. • 9 North Main St., Wallingford, (203) 265-6393 (jchristians.com). Closed Mon. L D, $$

La Tavola Ristorante • *Classic Italian* Enjoy a twist on classic Italian cuisine with prosciutto-wrapped figs, pumpkin ravioli and pepper-encrusted Ahi tuna. • 702 Highland Ave., Waterbury, (203) 755-2211 (latavolaristorante.com). Closed Sun. L D, $$, WA

Lenny & Joe's Fish Tale • *Seafood* This Connecticut institution serves all manner of fresh seafood, from hot lobster rolls to baked stuffed shrimp to fried whole-belly clams. • 501 Long Wharf Dr., New Haven, (203) 691-6619 (ljfishtale.com). Open daily. L D, $$, WA

L'Orcio • *Contemporary Italian* This upscale restaurant features a menu of house-made pastas, grilled whole fish and steaks. • 806 State St., New Haven, (203) 777-6670 (lorcio.com). Closed Mon. L (Fri.) D, $$

Moxie • *American* High-end American cuisine is the star here. Try the perfectly cooked burger that comes with awesome fries doused in kosher salt and malt vinegar powder. • 52 Wall Street, Madison, (203) 421-6963, moxie-bar.com. Closed Mon. D (Tues.-Sun) L (Fri.-Sun.), $$, WA

Miya's • *Sushi* A sushi restaurant like no other, thanks to chef Bun Lai's unique creations. • 68 Howe St., New Haven, (203) 777-9760 (miyassushi.com). Closed Sun.-Mon. L D, $$$, WA

Olea • *Spanish* A world-class, full-service Spanish restaurant, with a fun tapas bar. • 39 High St., New Haven (203) 780-8925, oleanewhaven.com. Closed Sun., Mon.-Thur. L D, $$$, WA [★★★★ 2/15]

Park Central Tavern • *American* The dynamic weekly menu showcases signature entrées and classic favorites made with fresh New England ingredients. • 1640 Whitney Ave., Hamden, (203) 287-8887 (parkcentraltavern.com). Open daily. L D, $, WA

Ristorante Luce • *Classic Italian* Enjoy the double-cut veal chops, pane cotto, risotto pescatore and daily fish specials. Extensive wine list. • 2987 Whitney Ave., Hamden, (203) 407-8000 (ristoranteluce.net). Open daily. L (Mon.-Fri.) D, $$

Roìa • *French/Italian* This new spot in the Taft Hotel building evokes a golden era when romance reigned. On the menu: artichoke soup, chicken al mattone and panna cotta. 261 College St., New Haven, (203) 200-7045 (roiarestaurant.com). D (Wed.-Sun.), $$, WA

Sake Fusion Restaurant • *Asian Fusion* Indian pancakes with curry sauce, Vietnamese-style grilled pork and Malaysian-style sautéed eggplant are just a few of the Asian-fusion dishes on the menu. • 730 Main St. S., Southbury, (203) 264-2888 (sakefusionsouthbury.com). Open daily. L (Mon.-Sat.) D, $, WA

Sans Souci • *American* A casual mainstay in the area that prides itself on offering fresh pasta, steak, chicken, veal, seafood and other crowd pleasers. • 2003 N. Broad St., Meriden, (203) 639-1777 (sanssoucirestaurant.com). Closed Mon. L (Tues.-Fri.), D, $$

Señor Pancho's • *Mexican* A festive spot serving up terrific fresh salsa and margaritas to go with mole poblano, steak ranchero and fajitas. • 280 Cheshire Rd., Prospect, (203) 758-7788; 385 Main St. S., Southbury, (203) 262-6988 (senorpanchos.com). Open daily. L D SB, $, E, WA

Solun Tapas Bar & Restaurant • *Spanish* Solun is Spanish for "the sun and the moon" and this restaurant promises an escape from the ordinary with a wide array of tapas and other food classics from Spain. • 245 Amity Rd., Woodbridge, (203) 298-9741 (soluntapasbar.com). Open daily. L (Tues.-Sun.) D (Tues.-Sat.) SB, $$, E, WA

Thali Regional Cuisine of India • *Indian* Chic, exotic and fun. Thali dinners include Konkan crab, lamb chops and Andhra chicken curry. • 4 Orange St., New Haven, (203) 777-1177 (thali.com). Open daily. L D SB, $$, WA

The Wharf • *New American* This great spot at the Madison Beach Hotel serves up steak tartare, cioppino and grilled Berkshire pork chop with roasted fennel—with a side of water views. • 94 West Wharf Rd., Madison, (203) 350-0014 (madisonbeachhotel.com). Open daily. B, L (Mon.-Sat.), D. $$$, WA

Wood-n-Tap • *American* Hip, fun eateries known for great burgers and great beer. You'll also love the pizza, pasta, salads and sandwiches. • 311 Boston Post Rd., Orange, (203) 799-9663; 970 N. Colony Rd., Wallingford, (203) 265-9663 (woodntap.com). Open daily. L D LS, $, WA

Zafra Cuban Restaurant & Rum Bar • *Cuban* With a collection of 300 different kinds of rum—one of the largest in the country—this New Haven establishment is Connecticut's first true rum bar. Small, dark and atmospheric, this hip locale features chef Tadahiro ("Haya") Hayasaka's subtle and sometimes fanciful take on Cuban soul food. • 259 Orange St., New Haven, (203) 859-5342 (zafrarumbar.com). Open daily. L (Tues.-Fri.) D LS, $$, WA

New London County

Abbott's Lobsters • *Seafood* Enjoy the flavors of the sea and season at this lobster restaurant that is only open in the warmer months. Specialties include the aptly named opulent seafood rolls, a variety of clams, oysters and muslces, and of course lobster. • 17 Pearl Street, Noank/Groton. (860) 536-7719 (abbottslobster.com).Open daily through September and weekends through October. L D, $.

Al Dente • *Italian* Savor the mouthwatering flavors of frutti di mare, farfalle con pollo and medaglioni de manzo, followed up with cannoli or tiramisu at this Italian dining gem. • Foxwoods Resort Casino, Mashantucket, (800) Foxwoods (foxwoods.com). Open daily. D, $$$, E, WA

Alta Strada • *Italian* Try favorites like chittara with spicy lobster and fresh peas and grilled lamb chops with asparagus, potato and pickled onion salad. • MGM Grand at Foxwoods, 240 MGM Grand Dr., Mashantucket, (860) 312-2582 (altastradarestaurant.com). Open daily. L D, $$$

Ballo Italian Restaurant & Social Club • *Italian* A sumptuous restaurant inspired by the magnificent 12th-century Abbey of San Galgano in Siena. On the menu: pizza and pasta, striped bass and veal porterhouse. • Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, (860) 862-1100 (balloitalian.com). L D, $$, WA

Bar Americain • *American* This brasserie serves up Bobby Flay specialties like lobster-avocado cocktails, buttermilk-fried chicken with biscuits—and big-time glamour. • Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, (860) 862-8000 (baramericain.com). Open daily. D, $$

Bleu Squid • *American* A bakery and cheese shop serving 30 cheeses and 40 different cupcakes. Also serves up grilled cheese sandwiches to go, freshly made and to order, including the best-selling lobster grilled cheese. • 27 Coogan Blvd., Mystic, (860) 536-6343 (dessertsmysticct.com). Open daily. L D, $, WA

Bobby's Burger Palace • *American* This burger palace serves an array of burgers inspired by chef Bobby Flay's extensive travels. Each is a tribute to a different American regional flavor and tradition. • Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, (888) 226-7711 (www.bobbysburgerpalace.com). Open daily. L D, $$ WA

Breakwater • *Seafood* This restaurant is located where Skipper's Dock used to be and offers stunning views and ocean-to-table dishes including some with Asian or Latin-American touches.• 66 Water St., Stonington, (860) 415-8123 (breakwaterstoningtton.com). Open daily. L D, $ WA [★★½ 7/15]

The Captain Daniel Packer Inne • *American* This 1754 whaler's inn features a view of the Mystic River along with dishes like lemon pepper chicken, filet mignon and salmon • 32 Water St., Mystic, (860) 536-3555 (danielpacker.com). Open daily. L D, $$$ WA

Caffé NV • *Greek* Greek cuisine is the specialty at this restaurant with stained-glass windows and brick walls. Some favorites include pasta a la Philip and shrimp Saganaki. • 57 Boston Post Rd., Waterford, (860) 444-8111 (cafenv.com). Closed Sun. L D LS, $$, WA

C.C. O'Brien's • *Irish Pub* A neighborhood sports pub with great food, friendly service, sports on 20 HDTVs and live entertainment on Saturday nights. • 8 Mechanic St., Pawcatuck, (860) 599-2034 (ccobriens.com). Open daily. L D LS, $$, WA

Cedar's Steakhouse • *American* Offers lounge seating and cozy booths. Diners can count on the finest cuts of certified dry-aged prime beef and fresh seafood. • Foxwoods Resort Casino, Mashantucket, (800) FOXWOODS (foxwoods.com). Open daily. L D, $$$, WA

Chaplin's • *Seafood* Specializes in locally caught seafood and regional American bistro favorites. Standouts include halibut sautéed with almonds, tuna with fresh mango and roasted red-pepper sauce and swordfish garnished with salsa. • 165 Bank St., New London, (860) 443-0684. Open daily. D, $$, WA

The Chestnut Grille • *American* The winning seasonal menu here includes succulent treats such as pan-roasted duck breast and seared diver scallops. • The Bee and Thistle Inn, 100 Lyme St., Old Lyme, (860) 434-1667 (beeandthistleinn.com). Closed Sun.-Mon. D, $$$, E

David Burke Prime • *American* An updated steakhouse menu with dry-aged beef, as well as terrific pork, chicken and seafood specialties. The steak served here is truly a cut above. • Foxwoods Resort Casino, Mashantucket, (860) 312-8753 (davidburke-prime.com). Open daily. L D SB, $$$

Flanders Fish Market & Restaurant • *Seafood* Flanders excels at lobster bisque, fish-and-chips and broiled seafood. Known for its bountiful Sunday buffet, fresh seafood market and New England clambakes. • 22 Chesterfield Rd., East Lyme, (860) 739-8866 (flandersfish.com). Open daily. L D SB, $$, WA

Frank Pepe Pizzeria Napoletana • *Pizza* While world-famous clam pizza is the standout, many other varieties are also worth the wait. • Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, (860) 862-8888 (pepespizzeria.com). Open daily. L (Mon.-Fri.) D, $, WA

Gaspar's Restaurant • *New American Cuisine* Enjoy award-winning lobster bisque, sushi rolls and other sea-to-table delicacies made from fresh seafood. Ambience is old-school classy with white tablecloths, red roses and candlelight. • 385 Bank Street, New London, (860) 440-3663 (gasparsnewlondon.com). Open daily. L D SB, $$, WA

Harbour House Restaurant and Bar • *Seafood* Enjoy ahi tuna tacos, lobster, grilled swordfish and other seafood favorites in a casually elegant and comfortable setting with stunning water views. • 3 Williams Ave., Mystic, (860) 536-8144 (harbourhouse-ct.com). Open daily. L (Mon.-Fri.) D, $$, E, WA

Inishmor Pub • *Irish American* Get a taste of the old country at this authentic Irish pub where specialties include Gaelic favorites like chips and curry and shepherd's pie. • 20 Main St., Colchester, (inishmorpub.com). Open daily. L D LS $$, E

Jasper White's Summer Shack • ***Seafood*** This award-winning restaurant features live lobster and crab, fried seafood, chowders and wood-grilled fish. • Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, (860) 862-9500 (summershackrestaurant.com). Open daily. L D SB, $$

Johnny's Peking Tokyo • ***Asian Fusion*** The finest in Asian-fusion cuisine, including ginger duck, shrimp and pork Hunan-style, sushi and sashimi. Dine in or order online for pickup. • 12 Coogan Blvd., Mystic, (860) 572-9991 (johnnysushibar.com). Open daily. L D, $$, WA

Kensington's at The Spa at Norwich Inn • ***American*** A first-class restaurant serving gourmet food with an emphasis on natural meats, fresh, locally sourced produce and healthy preparations. • 607 West Thames St., Norwich, (860) 425-3630 (thespaatnorwichinn.com). Open daily. B L D SB, $$$, E, WA

Kitchen Little • ***American*** Enjoy a panoramic view of the Mystic River while dining on eggs Benedict, omelets and other savory egg dishes at this breakfast destination. • 36 Quarry Rd., Mystic (kitchenlittle.org). Open daily for breakfast. B L (Mon.-Fri.) SB, $

Michael Jordan's Steak House • ***American*** USDA prime steaks, chops and fresh seafood paired with an extensive wine list. • Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, (860) 862-8600 (michaeljordansteakhouse.com). Open daily. D, $$$

Octagon • ***American*** The menu at this upscale yet relaxed steak house includes the signature 24-ounce bone-in rib eye, 14-ounce Kobe sirloin and wild striped bass. *Wine Spectator* Award of Excellence. • Mystic Marriott Hotel, 625 North Rd., Groton, (860) 326-0360 (octagonsteakhouse.com). Open daily. D, $$$, R

The Old Lyme Inn • ***American*** The Inn's restaurant and bar features a locally sourced menu with a modern twist on traditional dishes. • 85 Lyme St., Old Lyme, (860) 434-2600 (oldlymeinn.com). Open daily. L D, $$$, WA

Oyster Club • ***American*** This popular place showcases food that travels the shortest distance from farm and sea to table, with seasonality and location determining the day's dishes. • 13 Water St., Mystic, (860) 415-9266 (oysterclubct.com). Closed Tues. L (Sat.) D SB, $$, WA

Paragon • ***American*** This 24th floor aerie is Foxwoods' showpiece, with a menu that highlights organic produce and meats: crispy wild boar meatballs and Dover sole with beurre noir. • Foxwoods Resort Casino, Mashantucket, (800) 312-3000 (foxwoods.com). Closed Mon.-Tues. D, $$$, WA

Red 36 • ***American*** It's all about the sea at this waterside hotspot that offers dinner with a view. • 2 Washington St., Mystic, (860) 536-3604 (red36ct.com). Closed Mon. L D, $$

S&P Oyster Co. • ***Seafood*** Serving traditional New England seafood with a South American flair. Enjoy oysters on the half shell, PEI mussels, fresh cuts of fish and Creekstone Farms steaks grilled over hardwoods. • 1 Holmes St., Mystic, (860) 536-2674 (sp-oyster.com). Open daily. L D, $$, WA

Tolland County

Altnaveigh Inn & Restaurant • ***American*** This 1734 farmhouse serves filet mignon with port-wine reduction demiglace and pan-seared tuna with onion marmalade. • 957 Storrs Rd., Storrs, (860) 429-4490 (altnaveighinn.com). Closed Sun.-Mon. L (Tues.-Fri.) D, $$$, WA

Angellino's Restaurant • ***Italian*** There's plenty to like at Angellino's, including penne Augustino with artichoke hearts, sundried tomatoes and garlic. • 135 Storrs Rd., Mansfield, (860) 450-7071; 346 Kelly Rd., Vernon, (860) 644-7702 (angellinos.com). Open daily. L D, $$, WA

Asian Bistro • ***Asian Fusion*** A popular hibachi steak house/bar offering Asian-fusion dishes along with sushi and sashimi. • 95 Storrs Rd., Mansfield, (860) 456-8316 (asianbistromansfield.com). Open daily. L D, $$, WA

Bidwell Tavern • ***American*** This 1822 Coventry tavern, once the town hall, offers prime rib, chicken wings and 24 beers on tap. • 1260 Main St. (Rte. 31), Coventry, (860) 742-6978. Open daily. L D LS, $$, E, WA

The Blue Oak at the Nathan Hale Inn • ***American*** On the UConn campus, enjoy honest New England-style dishes and lighter fare. Great wine selection. • 855 Bolton Rd., Storrs, (860) 427-7888 (nathanhaleinn.com). Open daily. B L D, $$

Elmo's Dockside • ***Seafood*** Known for fresh, local seafood, homemade clam chowder and lobster bisque, USDA High Choice beef, poultry and pasta dishes. • 48 Hartford Tpke., Vernon, (860) 646-3474, (elmosdockside.com). Open daily. L (Mon.-Sat.) D, $$

Georgina's Italian Restaurant • ***Italian*** Warm and inviting—try the calamari appetizer, chicken Athena, lasagna and chicken parmigiano. • 275 Boston Tpke., Bolton, (860) 647-0345 (georginasrestaurant.com). Closed Mon. L D, $$, WA

Lakeview Family Restaurant • ***Fresh Seafood/Italian*** Fresh seafood, Italian dishes, paninis, salads, burgers and wings are served in a casual, romantic waterside setting. • 50 Lake St., Coventry, (860) 498-0500 (coventrylakeview.com). Open daily. L D, $$, E, WA

Little Mark's Big BBQ • ***Barbecue*** Little Mark's famous homemade sauces, such as Kansas City Sweet, Pork Pickin' Vinegar and Texas Hot, enhance the beef and pork ribs. • 226 Talcottville Rd., Vernon, (860) 872-1410 (littlemarksbbq.com). Open daily. L D, $$, WA

Pancho Loco • ***Mexican*** Don your shorts and Hawaiian shirt and try this Parrothead paradise for sizzling fajitas and chillin' margaritas. • 218 Talcottville Rd., Vernon, (860) 871-1819 (pancholoco.net). Open daily. L D, $, E, WA

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dining guide | tolland county

Rein's New York Style Deli-Restaurant • ***American*** A bright and bustling Jewish deli serving everything from challah French toast and potato pancakes to pastrami Reubens and cheese blintzes. • 435 Hartford Tpke., Vernon, (860) 875-1344 (reinsdeli.com). Open daily. B L D LS SB, $, WA

Tavern House Grill • ***American*** This pub-style sports bar features live entertainment and regular karaoke events. On the menu: steaks, burgers, grilled sandwiches and wings. • 200 Merrow Rd., Tolland, (860) 872-0332 (tavernhousegrill.com). Open daily. L D SB, $, E, WA

True Blue Tavern at the Nathan Hale Inn • ***American*** Great casual dining in a fun atmosphere celebrating the spirit of UConn athletics. • 855 Bolton Rd., Storrs, (860) 427-7888 (nathanhaleinn.com). Open daily. D, $, WA

Trattoria da Lepri • ***Italian*** This family-owned and -run eatery prepares dishes from scratch with local ingredients. On the menu: rigatoni Bolognese, veal scallopini Marsala and crab-meat-stuffed shrimp. • 89 West Rd., Ellington, (860) 875-1111 (trattoriadalepri.com). Closed Sun.-Mon. D, $$, WA

Utsav Indian Cuisine • ***Indian*** This gem boasts a menu of delectable Indian treats such as shamm savera or calamari cochin. • 575 Talcottville Rd., Vernon, (860) 871-8714 (utsavcuisine.com). Open daily. L D, $$, WA

Willington Pizza House • ***Pizza*** Unusual designer pizza concoctions, including red-potato and seafood casino. • 25 River Rd. (Rte. 32), Willington, (860) 429-7433 (willingtonpizza.com). Open daily. L D LS, $, WA

Vernon Diner • ***Continental*** Enjoy anything from homemade French toast and Greek specialties to steak, seafood and pasta at this friendly spot in Vernon. • 453 Hartford Tpke., Vernon, (860) 875-8812 (vernondiner.com). Open daily. B L D LS, $, WA

Wood-n-Tap • ***American*** Known for great burgers and great beer. You'll also love the pizza, pasta, salads and sandwiches. • 236 Hartford Tpke., Vernon, (860) 872-6700 (woodntap.com). L D LS, $, WA

Windham County

85 Main • ***New American*** There's something for everybody at this Main Street fixture: from sushi to duck-liver pâté, pulled-pork barbecue to wild-mushroom ravioli. • 85 Main St., Putnam, (860) 928-1660 (85main.com). Open daily. L D LS, $$, WA

Bella's Bistro • ***Northern Italian*** An upscale spot with a seasonal menu serving veal, beef, chicken, pork, pizzas and more. • 75 Main St., Putnam, (860) 928-7343 (bellasbistromarket.com). Closed Mon. L D (Tues.-Sat.), $$, WA

The Courthouse Bar & Grill • ***American*** Serves 20 great appetizers plus "arresting" main courses such as seafood Alfredo and Montreal sirloin. • 121 Main St., Putnam, (860) 963-0074 (courthousebarandgrille.com). Open daily. L D LS (weekends), $, WA

Fiesta Cinco De Mayo • ***Mexican*** A festive spot offering pollo salsa verde, carne asada and great guacamole. • 1228 Main St., Willimantic, (860) 423-9524. Open daily. L D, $$, WA

Golden Lamb Buttery • ***American*** In a barn overlooking a 1,000-acre farm, dinner here might be roast duckling, chateubriand or honey-glazed rack of lamb. For dessert, there's strawberry-rhubarb bread pudding or lemon blueberry cake. • 199 Bush Hill Rd., Brooklyn, (860) 774-4423 (thegoldenlamb.com). Closed Sun.-Mon. L D (Fri.-Sat.), $$$, E, WA

Hank's Restaurant • ***American*** A family place serving home-style chowders, lobster salad rolls and prime rib. • 416 Providence Rd., Brooklyn, (860) 774-6071 (hanksrestaurant.com). Open daily. L D, $$

The Inn at Woodstock Hill • ***American*** The menu at this historic estate includes shrimp-and-sea-scallop stir-fry, fontina-stuffed veal tenderloin Serrano and duckling à l'orange. • 94 Plaine Hill Rd., Woodstock, (860) 928-0528 (woodstockhill.com). Open daily. L (Thurs.-Sat.) D SB, $$$, WA

J.D. Cooper's • ***American*** A sports pub with walls of sports memorabilia and 125 entrées from prime rib to fajitas to fresh fish. • 146 Park Rd., Putnam, (860) 928-0501. Open daily. L D, $, E (Sat.), WA

The Mansion at Bald Hill • ***American*** The pan-seared diver scallops with jumbo shrimp is tops, and don't skip the lobster mac 'n' cheese. • 29 Plaine Rd., South Woodstock, (860) 974-3456 (mansionatbaldhill.com). Closed Mon. D, $$$, WA

Mozzarella's Grill & Bar • ***American/Italian*** A great family restaurant with a warm, cozy atmosphere serving fresh burgers, steaks, seafood, and Italian specialties. • 460 Hartford Tpke., Dayville, (860) 774-3434 (mozzarellasgrill.com). Closed Fri.-Sun. B L D, $, E, WA

Someplace Special Pizza • ***Italian*** Serves Greek-style pizza, steaks, seafood and pastas at reasonable prices. • 58 Main St., Putnam, (860) 928-2884 (someplacespecialrestaurant.com). Open daily. L D, $, WA

The Vanilla Bean Café • ***American*** A restaurant known for its homemade soups, award-winning chili, vegetarian dishes and desserts. • Rtes. 44, 169 & 97, Pomfret, (860) 928-1562 (thevanillabeancafe.com). Open daily. B L D (Wed.-Sun.), $$, E, WA

Willimantic Brewing Co./Main Street Café • ***Brew Pub*** In a historic U.S. Post Office building, beers are brewed in full view of diners. Try the ale-steamed mussels. • 967 Main St., Willimantic, (860) 423-6777 (willibrew.com). Open daily. L (Tues.-Sun.) D, $$, WA

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the kate

Be part of the audience for the taping of the new national series from CPTV: *The Kate*.

The Kate, like its namesake, is not shy. *The Kate* offers smart, bold performances from artists with something to say. Shot at Old Saybrook's Katharine Hepburn Cultural Arts Center, this CPTV Original national music series steps away from the traditional music series format to create a true connection between the performer and the audience.

Be a part of *The Kate*! The following performances will be taped this fall for national broadcast in 2016. See ticket information below.

Rickie Lee Jones | Thursday, September 10 at 7:30 p.m.
The singer performs her hit "Chuck E.'s in Love" and new songs with her blend of bravado and vulnerability.

Barb Jungr | Wednesday, September 30 at 7:30 p.m.
Barb interprets Sondheim, Springsteen, Dylan and more in her smart, quirky style.

The Ann Wilson Thing | Tuesday, October 6 at 7:30 p.m.
Ann Wilson of HEART goes solo and pushes her creative and vocal boundaries.

Black Violin | Thursday, November 19 at 7:30 p.m.
This duo studied classical but lived hip hop. There are no musical barriers in this dynamic show.

Ana Gasteyer | Tuesday, November 24 at 7:30 p.m.
The *Saturday Night Live* star sings saucy selections and tells stories with heartbreaking humor.

For tickets to these live television tapings, visit thekate.tv or call the box office at 877.503.1286.

Pictured from top: Rickie Lee Jones, Barb Jungr, Ann Wilson, Black Violin and Ana Gasteyer

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Masterpiece Returns

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A new season is upon us, and with it come some exciting developments at the Connecticut Public Broadcasting Network (CPBN), home of Connecticut Public Television (CPTV) and Connecticut Public Radio (WNPR).

You may have heard that CPTV has partnered with Connecticut-based aerospace manufacturer Pratt & Whitney to celebrate Pratt & Whitney's 90th anniversary next month. The anniversary celebration will be held on Friday, October 16 beginning at 6 p.m. at the Connecticut Convention Center, with Space-Craft Manufacturing, Inc., of New Haven becoming the first and Title Sponsor of the event. We hope many more sponsors will soon be added to the list. The event is being presented by CPTV as part of our ongoing Made in Connecticut initiative.

This initiative, made possible by Founding Sponsor KBE Building Corporation and the Connecticut Business & Industry Association (CBIA), features special programming airing on both CPTV and WNPR that showcases local manufacturing and innovation. In fact, Pratt & Whitney and its revolutionary PurePower jet engine were featured in the CPTV Original documentary *Made in Connecticut* that premiered as part of the initiative last year!

We thank Pratt & Whitney for being part of the Made in Connecticut initiative, and congratulate them on this landmark anniversary. For more information on Pratt & Whitney and other companies featured by the Made in Connecticut initiative, visit MadeinCT.CPTV.org. And for information on how to be a part of the exciting anniversary celebration, see page 101.

We are also pleased to announce that the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences recently announced its nominations for the 67th Primetime Emmy Awards, and PBS programs received 30 nominations! We are proud to feature PBS programming on CPTV, a PBS affiliate station, and these nominations make us even more proud. A complete list of the nominated PBS programs can be found on page 103. Stay tuned to CPTV this fall as we air exciting new PBS offerings!

We would not be able to celebrate local industry, nor feature a diverse range of high-quality public television programming, without the support of you, our members. Thank you, and happy fall to you and yours!

Jerry Franklin
President and CEO, Connecticut Public Broadcasting Network

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Highlights | September 2015

A Friendly Story: An All Things Connecticut Special
Saturday, September 12 at 7:30 p.m. on CPTV

Learn the story of brothers Prestley and Curtis Blake, who started a one-shop ice cream business called “Friendly Ice Cream." Their shop grew into the restaurant chain and ice cream manufacturer now known simply as "Friendly’s." Plus, find out about Lyman Orchards and their family history of providing generations of Connecticut residents with food and fun!

Nature – Nature's Miracle Orphans
Wednesday, September 30 Beginning at 8 p.m. on CPTV

This new two-part special from *Nature* follows animal rescue center caregivers working to help orphaned baby animals. Both parts premiere back-to-back, and feature a koala, a wallaby and a three-toed sloth.

E.O. Wilson: Of Ants and Men
Wednesday, September 30 at 10 p.m. on CPTV

Examine the remarkable life and ideas of biologist E.O. Wilson, founder of the discipline of sociobiology, world authority on insects and Pulitzer Prize-winning writer on the subject of human nature.

The Civil War – 25th Anniversary Broadcast
Monday, September 7 - Friday, September 11 at 9 p.m. on CPTV

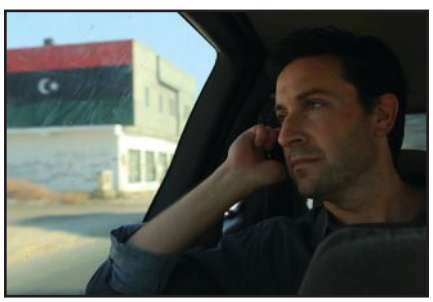
America's most destructive conflict is brought to life in Ken Burns' award-winning documentary series. This newly restored, high-definition version marks the 25th anniversary of the series' premiere. All nine parts air on CPTV during the week of September 7. Plus, a new retrospective about the series premieres on September 1 at 8 p.m.

Walt Disney: American Experience
Monday, September 14 and Tuesday, September 15 at 9 p.m. on CPTV

This new two-part film from *American Experience* explores the life and legacy of one of America's most enduring and influential storytellers. See rare footage from the Disney vaults and scenes from some of his greatest films, as well as interviews with animators and artists who worked on *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*; Imagineers who helped design Disneyland; and others.

Gorongosa Park: Rebirth of Paradise
Tuesday, September 29 Beginning at 8 p.m. on CPTV

All three parts of this new miniseries air back-to-back. Experience the inspiring rebirth of an African wilderness through the eyes of award-winning wildlife cameraman Bob Poole. Darting lions, wrestling crocs, facing down angry elephants – it's all part of a day's work as Poole joins the battle to "re-wild" a legendary national park.



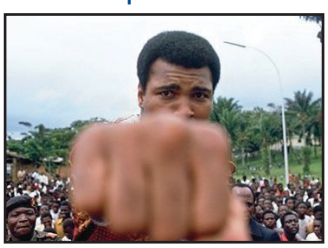
Frontline – My Brother's Bomber
Tuesdays at 11 p.m. Beginning September 29 on CPTV

This three-part *Frontline* investigation follows a brother's search for the terrorists who blew up Pan Am Flight 103. Filmmaker Ken Dornstein sets off to Libya in search of the men who killed 189 Americans, including his brother, in 1988.

In Their Own Words – Queen Elizabeth II
Tuesday, September 8 at 8 p.m. on CPTV and Thursday, September 10 at 8 p.m. on CPTV4U

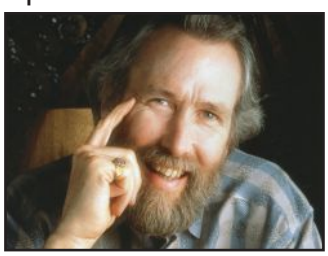
The biography series *In Their Own Words* premieres with a profile of Queen Elizabeth II. Follow her remarkable life, including her youth, her father's coronation, her experiences during World War II and her ascension to the throne.

In Their Own Words – Muhammad Ali
Tuesday, September 8 at 8 p.m. and Saturday, September 12 at 9:30 p.m. on CPTV Sports



Muhammad Ali's path from a gym in Louisville to boxing success is explored, as are his conversion to Islam; his opposition to the draft; his exile from the ring; his struggle with Parkinson's disease; and his inspirational reemergence.

In Their Own Words – Jim Henson
Tuesday, September 15 at 8 p.m. on CPTV



Follow Jim Henson's career from his early television work in the 1950s to his breakthrough with *Sesame Street* and *The Muppet Show* and beyond. Plus, explore Henson's creative drive and his desire to be known as more than a children's entertainer.

***Arthur & George on Masterpiece* airs Sundays at 8 p.m. beginning September 6 on CPTV.**

Get Ready for Drama – *Masterpiece* Returns with Two New Series This September

Masterpiece is back in full force in September with not one but two new series full of stirring drama, chilling mystery and affecting romance.

First, on Sundays, September 6, 13 and 20 at 8 p.m., CPTV airs *Arthur & George on Masterpiece*. The series also airs on CPTV4U Saturdays, September 12, 19 and 26 at 11 p.m. This three-part adaptation of Julian Barnes' novel follows the separate but intersecting lives of two men, and stars Martin Clunes of *Doc Martin* as celebrated writer and physician Sir Arthur Conan Doyle!

Based on an actual event, *Arthur & George* is set in England in 1903. It tells the story of hardworking solicitor George Edalji (Arsher Ali of *Wallander*), a half-Indian son of a vicar who is accused of a crime he may not have committed.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (Clunes) learns of the case and is outraged by the injustice shown to Edalji. He joins with his trusted manservant, Alfred "Woody" Wood (Charles Edwards of *Downton Abbey*), to investigate.

In the process, he employs the methods of his own famed creation, Sherlock Holmes. Will he and Woody be able to use those methods to help Edalji?

"How perfect that *Arthur & George* will air on PBS, as public television has been such a wonderful home to *Doc Martin*," said Clunes. "I'm sure that our new series will be a treat for *Doc Martin* fans, and for everyone who enjoys a terrific drama."

Then, Sundays at 9 p.m. beginning September 27, CPTV airs *Indian Summers*. The series also comes to CPTV4U Tuesdays at 8 p.m. beginning September 29.

Indian Summers takes place in India during the twilight of British rule. This nine-part series is framed by the beginning and end of the summer season, when India's British rulers left the hot plains for the cool slopes of Simla, located in the foothills of the Himalayas.

Indian Summers stars Julie Walters (an Oscar nominee for her work in *Billy Elliot* and *Educating Rita*) and a number of British, Indian and Pakistani stars, including Henry Lloyd-Hughes (*Madame Bovary*), Nikesh Patel (*Bedlam*), Jemima West (*The Borgias*), Roshan Seth (*Gandhi*), Patrick Malahide (*The Paradise*), and Bollywood legends Lillete Dubey (*The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*) and Alyy Khan (*Sharpe's Challenge*).

***Indian Summers on Masterpiece* airs Sundays at 9 p.m. beginning September 27 on CPTV.**

Also appearing are Alexander Cobb (*Mr. Selfridge*), Aysha Kala (*Shameless*), Olivia Grant (*Endeavour*), Edward Hogg (*The Borgias*), Fiona Glascott (*Anton Chekhov's The Duel*), Craig Parkinson (*Line of Duty*) and Richard McCabe (*Wallander*).

The series centers on three brother-and-sister pairs. They include Ralph Whelan (Lloyd-Hughes) and his sister Alice (West). Ralph is the private secretary to the British Viceroy of India (Malahide). He is a politically ambitious bachelor trying to hide a checkered past, and he is joined by Alice when she appears suddenly from England with her son — and conspicuously without her husband.

Next there is Aafrin Dalal (Patel), an idealistic clerk in the elite Indian Civil Service, who wins Ralph's trust by saving his life. Aafrin seems marked for rapid advancement in the British bureaucracy, but his sister Sooni (Kala) threatens his career by agitating for national independence.

Then there are two adrift Americans: Eugene Mathers (Hogg), an expatriate architect from a wealthy family who has been taken in by Ralph after being stricken with malaria; and Eugene's seductive sister Madeline (Grant), who comes to care for him — and ends up caring for Ralph.

Pulling the strings that animate much of the action is the glamorous but manipulative Cynthia Coffin (Walters). Cynthia is a military widow who presides over the Royal Simla Club, an English social club where the ruling class lounges in subtropical splendor. Little happens in this community without Cynthia's prior knowledge or approval.

Apart from this in-group are two other contingents representing British imperialism. One of these is tea plantation owner Stafford Armitage (McCabe), recently joined by his eager and inexperienced nephew Ian McLeod (Cobb). The other is missionary Dougie Raworth (Parkinson), whose rescue of a mixed-race boy launches a major storyline in the series. Meanwhile, Sarah (Glascott), Dougie's desperately homesick wife, is slowly losing her mind in a land that is strange to her.

Meanwhile, pressure is building for an end to British rule; Gandhi has recently been arrested on the viceroy's orders and is staging a hunger strike from his cell, exerting pressure that renders the world's greatest empire helpless.

Against this backdrop, the characters on both sides of the issue alternately clash and merge in an intricate game of power, politics and passion!

Prime Time | September 1-6

- CPTV Original, CPTV National Production or Presentation or CPTV Co-production indicated in blue font.
- Program or episode premiere indicated by a (P). Live broadcasts indicated by a (L).
- Asterisk indicates that show begins prior to 8 p.m.; two asterisks indicate that show ends after 12 a.m. Visit CPTV.org/schedule for exact start and end times.
- CPTV Sports schedule subject to change due to game cancellations and durations.

TUE | 1	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
CPTV	Ken Burns: The Civil War (P) Get ready for the rebroadcast of *The Civil War* with interviews from Burns and others involved in the making of the series.			Viewers' Favorites Relax and enjoy an evening of some of CPTV's most popular music specials, how-to programs and more!				
CPTV4U	Big Blue Live (Part 2 of 3) (L) Explore Monterey Bay's ecosystem.		The Forsyte Saga (Part 8 of 13) Soames divorces Irene.		The Forsyte Saga (Part 9 of 13) Fleur and Jon meet as children.		Charlie Rose	
CPTV Sports	8: Ivy League Football and America Explore the role the Ivy League schools played in developing football.			The Smartest Team: Making High School Football Safer		2014 CIAC Girls HS Soccer Championship - Class LL, Darien/Cheshire		

WED | 2	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
CPTV	Viewers' Favorites (See CPTV, Sept. 1 at 9:30 p.m.)							
CPTV4U	Big Blue Live (Part 3 of 3) (L) (See CPTV4U, Sept. 1 at 8 p.m.)		Antiques Roadshow - Myrtle Beach, Part 2		Secrets of the Tower of London Go behind the ancient fortress' walls.		Charlie Rose	
CPTV Sports	2014 CIAC HS Football Championship - Class S Small, North Branford/Capitol Prep					2014 CIAC Girls HS Soccer Championship - Class M, St. Joseph/Granby		

THU | 3	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
CPTV	Viewers' Favorites (See CPTV, Sept. 1 at 9:30 p.m.)							
CPTV4U	The War of 1812 Leading historians, battle reenactors and historic images help bring the defining conflict to life.				Dead Reckoning: Champlain in America (P)		Charlie Rose	
CPTV Sports	2014 CIAC HS Football Championship - Class S Large, Ansonia/Valley Regional					In the Footsteps of Marco Polo A photographer and a former Marine retrace Polo's 25,000-mile path.		

FRI | 4	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
CPTV	Viewers' Favorites (See CPTV, Sept. 1 at 9:30 p.m.)							
CPTV4U	NOVA - Bigger Than T. Rex The Spinosaurus is reconstructed.		Secrets of the Dead - Cave Man Cold Case		Secrets of the Dead - Carthage's Lost Warriors		Charlie Rose	
CPTV Sports	2014 CIAC HS Football Championship - Class M Small, Ledyard/St. Joseph					Movie Classics - Close Encounters of the Third Kind** (P) (See page 100)		

SAT | 5	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
CPTV	Viewers' Favorites (See CPTV, Sept. 1 at 9:30 p.m.)							
CPTV4U	Masterpiece Mystery! - Inspector Lewis, Series 6: Down Among the Fearful			Masterpiece Mystery! - Sherlock, Series 2: The Reichenbach Fall			Secrets of the Tower of London (See CPTV4U, Sept. 2 at 10 p.m.)	
CPTV Sports	2014 CIAC HS Football Championship - Class M Large, Brookfield/ Berlin				8: Ivy League Football and America (See CPTV Sports, Sept. 1 at 8 p.m.)			Second Opinion

SUN | 6	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
CPTV	Arthur & George on Masterpiece (Part 1 of 3) (P) (See page 92)		Viewers' Favorites (See CPTV, Sept. 1 at 9:30 p.m.)					
CPTV4U	Infinity Hall Live - Robben Ford		Austin City Limits - The Black Keys/J. Roddy Walston		Xerox Rochester International Jazz Festival		Speakeasy - Carlos Santana with Harry Belafonte	
CPTV Sports	2014 CIAC HS Football Championship - Class L Small, Windsor/Notre Dame-W. Haven					2014 CIAC Girls HS Soccer Championship - Class L, RHAM/Farmington**		

Prime Time | September 7-12

MON | 7	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
CPTV	Antiques Roadshow - Myrtle Beach, Part 3 A 1936 first edition of *Gone with the Wind* is appraised.		The Civil War - Part 1: The Cause, 1861 (See page 91)				The Address Students with learning challenges use the Gettysburg Address as a tool for success.	
CPTV4U	Nature - The Private Life of Deer		Nature - Touching the Wild		The Queen's Garden		Charlie Rose	
CPTV Sports	2014 CIAC HS Football Championship - Class L Large, New Canaan/Darien					2014 CIAC Girls HS Soccer Championship - Class S, Seymour/Haddam		

TUE | 8	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
CPTV	In Their Own Words - Queen Elizabeth II (P) (See page 91)		The Civil War - Parts 2 & 3: A Very Bloody Affair / Forever Free, 1862 (See page 91)					Young Lincoln
CPTV4U	Masterpiece Classic - Upstairs Downstairs, Series 2		The Forsyte Saga (Part 10 of 13) Fleur visits a farm where Jon works.		The Forsyte Saga (Part 11 of 13) Jon and Fleur meet at Robin Hill.		Charlie Rose	
CPTV Sports	In Their Own Words - Muhammad Ali (P) (See page 91)		Independent Lens - The Trials of Muhammad Ali Go inside the boxer's fight to overturn his prison sentence.			American Masters - Althea Althea Gibson, the first African American to play and win Wimbledon, is profiled.		

WED | 9	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
CPTV	Nature - Wolverine: Chasing the Phantom Learn about the largest member of the weasel family.		The Civil War - Parts 4 & 5: Simply Murder / The Universe of Battle, 1863 (See page 91)					
CPTV4U	Antiques Roadshow - Myrtle Beach, Part 3		Wallis Simpson: The Secret Letters		Secrets of Selfridges Explore the famous London department store.		Charlie Rose	
CPTV Sports	2014 CIAC HS Football Championship - Class LL Large, Southington/Norwich Free Academy					Frontline - League of Denial (Part 1 of 2)		Second Opinion

THU | 10	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
CPTV	Doc Martin - The Tameness of a Wolf Ruth is invited on Radio Portwenn and attracts an admirer.		The Civil War - Parts 6 & 7: Valley of the Shadow of Death / Most Hallowed Ground, 1864 (See page 91)					This Old House
CPTV4U	In Their Own Words - Queen Elizabeth II (See page 91)		Globe Trekker - Building England (Part 1 of 2)		Globe Trekker - Building England (Part 2 of 2)		Charlie Rose	
CPTV Sports	2014 CIAC HS Football Championship - Class LL Small, Xavier/Shelton					Frontline - League of Denial (Part 2 of 2)		American Health Journal

FRI | 11	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
CPTV	Secrets of Underground London Get a look at the natural and man-made wonders beneath London.		The Civil War - Parts 8 & 9: War Is All Hell / The Better Angels of Our Nature, 1865 (See page 91)					Bluegrass Underground
CPTV4U	The Mystery of Matter: Search for the Elements (Parts 1, 2 and 3) Journey through the history of science on a quest to understand matter.						Charlie Rose	
CPTV Sports	2015 HS Football - Xavier/W. Haven* (L) (Start: 7 p.m.)				Movie Classics - Gandhi** (P) (See page 100)			

SAT | 12	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
CPTV	Movie Classics - Lawrence of Arabia (P) (See page 100)							
CPTV4U	Masterpiece Mystery! - Inspector Lewis, Series 6: The Ramblin' Boy			Masterpiece Mystery! - Sherlock, Series 3: The Empty Hearse			Arthur & George on Masterpiece (Part 1 of 3; See page 92)	
CPTV Sports	American Masters - Althea (See CPTV Sports, Sept. 8 at 10:30 p.m.)			In Their Own Words - Muhammad Ali (See page 91)		Independent Lens - The Trials of Muhammad Ali (See CPTV Sports, Sept. 8 at 9 p.m.)		

For a list of cable channels on which CPTV, CPTV4U and CPTV Sports can be found, visit CPTV.org/cable-channels, or call CPTV Audience Care at 860.275.7550.

Prime Time | September 13-18

SUN | 13	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
CPTV	Arthur & George on Masterpiece (Part 2 of 3) P (See page 92)		Movie Classics - Doctor Zhivago** P (See page 100)					
CPTV4U	Infinity Hall Live - Jackie Greene		Austin City Limits - Sam Smith/ Future Islands		Xerox Rochester International Jazz Festival		Speakeasy - Geddy Lee with Michael Chabon	
CPTV Sports	25,000 Mile Love Story P An endurance athlete runs 25,000 miles.		Alone in the Wilderness Richard Proenneke explores a pristine land.		Alaska: Silence & Solitude Revisit Richard Proenneke in Alaska.		Arctic Dance: The Mardy Murie Story	
MON | 14	**8:00**	**8:30**	**9:00**	**9:30**	**10:00**	**10:30**	**11:00**	**11:30**
CPTV	Antiques Roadshow - Survivors See treasures that have endured wars, natural disasters and more.		Walt Disney: American Experience (Part 1 of 2) P (See page 91)				Pioneers of Television - Local Kids TV Learn how local programs shaped Americans' childhoods.	
CPTV4U	Nature - Meet the Coywolf		Nature - Wolverine: Chasing the... (See CPTV, Sept. 9 at 8 p.m.)		Nature - Radioactive Wolves		Charlie Rose	
CPTV Sports	2015 HS Football - Xavier/W. Haven* (Start: 6 p.m.)		8: Ivy League Football and America (See CPTV Sports, Sept. 1 at 8 p.m.)			Frontline - League of Denial		
TUE | 15	**8:00**	**8:30**	**9:00**	**9:30**	**10:00**	**10:30**	**11:00**	**11:30**
CPTV	In Their Own Words - Jim Henson P (See page 91)		Walt Disney: American Experience (Part 2 of 2) P (See page 91)				The 1964 World's Fair The sights and sounds of the world-famous exhibition are showcased.	
CPTV4U	Masterpiece Classic - Upstairs Downstairs, Series 2		The Forsyte Saga (Part 12 of 13) Irene has told Jon about Soames.		The Forsyte Saga (Part 13 of 13) Find out who Fleur will marry.		Charlie Rose	
CPTV Sports	American Masters - Billie Jean King* (Start: 7:30 p.m.)		2015 HS Football - Windsor Locks, Suffield, E. Granby/Ellington P					
WED | 16	**8:00**	**8:30**	**9:00**	**9:30**	**10:00**	**10:30**	**11:00**	**11:30**
CPTV	Water Works - Part 1: Bringing Pure, Clean Water to Connecticut		NOVA - Dawn of Humanity P The astounding discovery of ancient fossil human ancestors in a South African cave is highlighted.				Secrets of the Dead - Bones of the Buddha Were the bones of the Lord Buddha really uncovered?	
CPTV4U	Antiques Roadshow - Survivors (See CPTV, Sept. 14 at 8 p.m.)		Antiques Roadshow - Vintage Toronto		Antiques Roadshow - Vintage Baltimore		Charlie Rose	
CPTV Sports	American Masters - Plimpton!...* (Start: 7:30 p.m.)		2015 HS Football - Xavier/W. Haven					
THU | 17	**8:00**	**8:30**	**9:00**	**9:30**	**10:00**	**10:30**	**11:00**	**11:30**
CPTV	Doc Martin - Nobody Likes Me Martin is coerced into taking James to playgroup.		The Dr. Blake Mysteries - Brotherly Love Blake must treat a prisoner on death row.		Masterpiece Mystery! - Endeavour Before there was Inspector Morse, there was the rookie Constable Morse. Can he solve a murder that no one else can?		This Old House	
CPTV4U	Secrets of the Dead - Ultimate Tut New insights into how Tutankhamun died and how he was buried are revealed.				Egypt's Golden Empire - Pharaohs of the Sun		Charlie Rose	
CPTV Sports	Alone in the Wilderness (See CPTV Sports, Sept. 13 at 9 p.m.)		Alaska: Silence & Solitude (See CPTV Sports, Sept. 13 at 10 p.m.)		Arctic Dance: The Mardy Murie Story		25,000 Mile Love Story (See CPTV Sports, Sept. 13 at 8 p.m.)	
FRI | 18	**8:00**	**8:30**	**9:00**	**9:30**	**10:00**	**10:30**	**11:00**	**11:30**
CPTV	Midsomer Murders - Garden of Death (Parts 1 and 2) A death in Midsomer Deverell's memorial garden reveals scandalous love affairs and blackmail.				Infinity Hall Live - Toad the Wet Sprocket The band performs their hit songs and exciting new tracks.		Infinity Hall Live - Los Lonely Boys Get ready for down-home grooves from the sibling trio.	
CPTV4U	Skeletons of the Sahara A prehistoric burial ground is discovered.		NOVA - Dawn of Humanity (See CPTV, Sept. 16 at 9 p.m.)				Charlie Rose	
CPTV Sports	2015 HS Football - Norwich Free Academy/ Waterford* L (Start: 6:30 p.m.)				Movie Classics - Dr. Zhivago** (See page 100)			

For a list of cable channels on which CPTV, CPTV4U and CPTV Sports can be found, visit CPTV.org/cable-channels, or call CPTV Audience Care at 860.275.7550.

Prime Time | September 19-24

SAT|19	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
CPTV	**Viewers' Favorites** CPTV has viewers covered with exciting concert events; sneak peeks behind the scenes of popular programs; and much more! Don't miss this enjoyable evening of entertainment.							
CPTV4U	**Masterpiece Mystery! - Inspector Lewis, Series 6: Intelligent Design**			**Masterpiece Mystery! - Sherlock, Series 3: The Sign of Three**			**Arthur & George on Masterpiece (Part 2 of 3; See page 92)**	
CPTV Sports	**2015 HS Football - Windsor Locks, Suffield, E. Granby/Ellington*** (Start: 7 p.m.)				**8: Ivy League Football and America** (See CPTV Sports, Sept. 1 at 8 p.m.)			**Film School Shorts**

SUN|20	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
CPTV	**Arthur & George on Masterpiece (Part 3 of 3)** (See page 92)		**Viewers' Favorites** (See CPTV, Sept. 19 at 8 p.m.)					
CPTV4U	**Infinity Hall Live - Tedeschi Trucks Band**		**Austin City Limits - The Foo Fighters**		**Xerox Rochester International Jazz Festival**		**Bluegrass Underground**	**Bluegrass Underground**
CPTV Sports	**Media Coverage and Female Athletes**		**2015 HS Field Hockey - Nonnewaug/Brookfield**			**American Masters - Plimpton! Starring George Plimpton as Himself**		

MON|21	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
CPTV	**Viewers' Favorites** (See CPTV, Sept.19 at 8 p.m.)							
CPTV4U	**EARTH A New Wild - Home** Will wild nature survive the Age of Man?		**EARTH A New Wild - Plains** Wild grasslands are explored.		**Nature - The Sagebrush Sea** A unique ecosystem is in danger.		**Charlie Rose**	
CPTV Sports	**2015 HS Football - Norwich Free Academy/Waterford*** (Start: 6 p.m.)		**2015 HS Field Hockey - Danbury/Weston**			**American Masters - Billie Jean King** The tennis star who fought for equality presents her own story.		

TUE|22	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
CPTV	**Viewers' Favorites** (See CPTV, Sept. 19 at 8 p.m.)							
CPTV4U	**Masterpiece Mystery! - The Escape Artist (Parts 1 and 2)** David Tennant stars as a brilliant defense lawyer who takes the case of an unsavory suspect accused of a torture killing.						**Charlie Rose**	
CPTV Sports	**2015 HS Field Hockey - Nonnewaug/Brookfield*** (Start: 7:30 p.m.)		**2015 HS Football - New London/Bacon Academy**					

WED|23	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
CPTV	**Viewers' Favorites** (See CPTV, Sept. 19 at 8 p.m.)							
CPTV4U	**Antiques Roadshow - Rapid City, Part 1**		**Antiques Roadshow - Rapid City, Part 2**		**Antiques Roadshow - Cincinnati, Part 2**		**Charlie Rose**	
CPTV Sports	**2015 HS Field Hockey - Danbury/Weston*** (Start: 7:30 p.m.)		**2015 HS Football - Norwich Free Academy/Waterford**					

THU|24	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
CPTV	**Viewers' Favorites** (See CPTV, Sept. 19 at 8 p.m.)							
CPTV4U	**Murder on the Home Front** A pathologist investigates a series of murders in London during World War II.			**The Blitz: London's Longest Night** The tragic night when firebombs were dropped on London is explored.			**Charlie Rose**	
CPTV Sports	**2015 Boys HS Soccer - Somers/Suffield**			**American Pharaoh** An American coaches soccer in Egypt.		**Media Coverage and Female Athletes**		**Film School Shorts**

For a list of cable channels on which CPTV, CPTV4U and CPTV Sports can be found, visit CPTV.org/cable-channels, or call CPTV Audience Care at 860.275.7550.

Prime Time | September 25-30

FRI|25	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
CPTV	Viewers' Favorites (See CPTV, Sept. 19 at 8 p.m.)							
CPTV4U	NOVA - Arctic Ghost Ship (P) The Franklin Expedition is explored.		Shark Island Whaler (P)		The Charles W. Morgan Climb aboard a historic whaling ship.		Legends of the Lake	Charlie Rose
CPTV Sports	2015 HS Football - Naugatuck/Torrington* (L) (Start: 6:30 p.m.)				Movie Classics - Lawrence of Arabia** (See page 100)			

SAT|26	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
CPTV	Viewers' Favorites (See CPTV, Sept. 19 at 8 p.m.)							
CPTV4U	Masterpiece Mystery! - Inspector Lewis, Series 7: Entry Wounds			Masterpiece Mystery! - Sherlock, Series 3: His Last Vow			Arthur & George on Masterpiece (Part 3 of 3; See page 92)	
CPTV Sports	2015 HS Football - New London/Bacon Academy* (Start: 7 p.m.)				Alone in the Wilderness (See CPTV Sports, Sept. 13 at 9 p.m.)		Alaska: Silence & Solitude (See CPTV Sports, Sept. 13 at 10 p.m.)	

SUN|27	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
CPTV	Viewers' Favorites (See CPTV, Sept. 19 at 8 p.m.)		Indian Summers on Masterpiece (Part 1 of 9) (P) (See pages 92-93)			Movie Classics - Gandhi** (See page 100)		
CPTV4U	Austin City Limits Celebrates 40 Years Willie Nelson, Bonnie Raitt, Kris Kristofferson, the Foo Fighters and other artists are showcased.				Austin City Limits - 2014 Hall of Fame Special		Bluegrass Underground	Bluegrass Underground
CPTV Sports	2015 Boys HS Soccer - Somers/ Suffield* (Start: 7:30 p.m.)		2015 Girls HS Soccer - Holy Cross/E. Hampton (P)			American Pharaoh (See CPTV Sports, Sept. 24 at 9:30 p.m.)		Film School Shorts

MON|28	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
CPTV	Antiques Roadshow - Rapid City, Part 3 Frank Lloyd Wright blueprints are appraised.		Antiques Roadshow - Albuquerque, Part 1 (P) A collection of Woodstock items is featured.		John Portman: A Life of Building (P) Explore the legacy of the daring and influential architect.		The Barnes Collection The quirky Dr. Albert C. Barnes amassed an astounding art collection.	
CPTV4U	EARTH A New Wild - Forests Meet animals of the Amazon.		EARTH A New Wild - Oceans Can humans restore the oceans?		EARTH A New Wild - Water Explore earth's most vital resource.		Charlie Rose	
CPTV Sports	2015 HS Football - Naugatuck/ Torrington* (Start: 6 p.m.)		2015 CIAC Cheerleading Finals					Twirl Girls

TUE|29	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
CPTV	Gorongosa Park: Rebirth of Paradise (Part 1 of 3) (P) (See page 91)		Gorongosa Park: Rebirth of Paradise (Part 2 of 3) (P) (See page 91)		Gorongosa Park: Rebirth of Paradise (Part 3 of 3) (P) (See page 91)		Frontline - My Brother's Bomber (Part 1 of 3) (P) (See page 91)	
CPTV4U	Indian Summers on Masterpiece (Part 1 of 9; See pages 92-93)			The Making of a Lady A poor woman accepts a marriage proposal and finds that her life is in danger.			Charlie Rose	
CPTV Sports	2015 Girls HS Soccer - Holy Cross/E. Hampton			2015 CIAC Open Track Championships**				

WED|30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
CPTV	Nature - Nature's Miracle Orphans: Second Chances (P) (See page 91)		Nature - Nature's Miracle Orphans: Wild Lessons (P) (See page 91)		E.O. Wilson: Of Ants and Men (P) (See page 91)			
CPTV4U	Antiques Roadshow - Albuquerque, Part 1		POV - Art and Craft (P) The jig is up for an art forger who has donated his copies to museums for 30 years.			CT's Cultural Treasures	Charlie Rose	
CPTV Sports	2015 Girls HS Soccer - Holy Cross/ E. Hampton* (Start: 7:30 p.m.)		2015 HS Football - Naugatuck/Torrington					

For a list of cable channels on which CPTV, CPTV4U and CPTV Sports can be found, visit CPTV.org/cable-channels, or call CPTV Audience Care at 860.275.7550.

Go On New Adventures with New Episodes of *Peg + Cat* and *Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood*

Two of CPTV Kids' most popular programs for pre-school-age viewers premiere new episodes in September!

Airing weekdays at 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., *Peg + Cat* follows Peg and her feline sidekick as they embark on adventures and learn foundational math concepts and skills.

Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood, airing weekdays at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., features Fred Rogers' original Neighborhood of Make Believe, recreated in vibrant animation. Rogers' signature puppet, Daniel Striped Tiger, is transformed into a curious 4-year-old who learns key social skills necessary for school and life.

Beginning Monday, September 7, all-new episodes of both series will air all week long on CPTV Kids. Don't miss all the new songs, lessons and fun!

And coming later this fall, get ready for the return of another beloved preschool series, *Bob the Builder*. Stay tuned for more information about brand-new episodes of the series airing weekdays at 7 a.m. beginning Monday, November 9!

cptvKids

Monday Through Friday

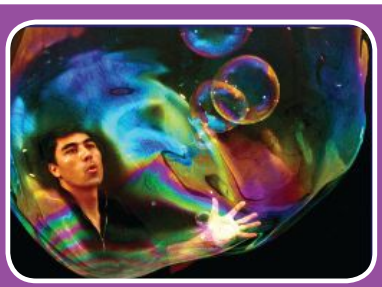
6:30 AM	Arthur	12:30 PM	Thomas & Friends
7:00	Odd Squad	1:00	Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood
7:30	Wild Kratts	1:30	Caillou
8:00	Curious George	2:00	Super Why!
8:30	The Cat in the Hat	2:30	Dinosaur Train
9:00	Peg + Cat	3:00	Peg + Cat
9:30	Dinosaur Train	3:30	The Cat in the Hat
10:00	Sesame Street	4:00	Curious George
11:00	Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood	4:30	Odd Squad
11:30	Super Why!	5:00	Wild Kratts
Noon	Sid the Science Kid	5:30	Wild Kratts

Sponsored by: ProHealth Physicians — Helping families eat well and be active — healthy me

Speaking of Daniel Tiger, *Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood Live!* is coming to Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts on Monday, February 15, 2016 at 2 p.m. Tickets go on sale on September 2!

The Gazillion Bubble Show

Sunday, September 13 at 2 p.m.
Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts, jorgensen.uconn.edu



The Gazillion Bubble Show will amaze the whole family with mind-blowing bubble magic. Step into an interactive bubble world with dazzling, spellbinding lasers, spectacular lighting effects and jaw-dropping masterpieces of bubble artistry. Smile, laugh and feel like a kid all over again!

"Spectacular! Unlike anything you've ever seen before!" – Regis Philbin

Plus, Fun for Kids – Join Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts an hour early as they kick off the season with bubbly fun and games!

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CPTV's Daytime Weekend Schedules | 6:30 a.m.-8 p.m.

CPTV Original, CPTV National Production or Presentation or CPTV Co-production indicated in blue font.

Saturday Morning Lineup (6:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.)*

6:30 a.m. Peep and the Big Wide World
7:00 a.m. Wild Kratts
7:30 a.m. Thomas & Friends
8:00 a.m. WordWorld
8:30 a.m. Biz Kid$
9:00 a.m. Everyday Edisons
9:30 a.m. Getting Away Together
10:00 a.m. Rick Steves' Europe
10:30 a.m. Antiques Roadshow
11:30 a.m. This Old House Hour

Sunday Morning Lineup (6:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)*

6:30 a.m. Angelina Ballerina: The Next Steps
7:00 a.m. Curious George
7:30 a.m. The Cat in the Hat
8:00 a.m. Signing Time
8:30 a.m. Design Squad
9:00 a.m. Charlie Rose: The Week
9:30 a.m. Religion & Ethics Newsweekly
10:00 a.m. Washington Week
10:30 a.m. Start Up
11:00 a.m. Consuelo Mack WealthTrack
11:30 a.m. To the Contrary

* Special Viewers' Favorites programming airs on Saturday, September 5; Sunday, September 6; Saturday, September 19; Sunday, September 20; Saturday, September 26; and Sunday, September 27.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

12:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Viewers' Favorites

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

12:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Viewers' Favorites

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

12:30 p.m. Growing a Greener World
1:00 p.m. The Victory Garden's Edible Feast
1:30 p.m. Baking with Julia
2:00 p.m. America's Test Kitchen
2:30 p.m. Cook's Country Kitchen
3:00 p.m. Martha Stewart's Cooking School
3:30 p.m. Martha Bakes
4:00 p.m. Jacques Pepin: More Fast Food My Way
4:30 p.m. Simply Ming
5:00 p.m. Lidia's Kitchen
5:30 p.m. Garden Smart
6:00 p.m. Hometime
6:30 p.m. Ask This Old House
7:00 p.m. This Old House
7:30 p.m. A Friendly Story: An All Things Connecticut Special

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

12:00 p.m. McLaughlin Group
12:30 p.m. Movie Classics - Lawrence of Arabia
4:30 p.m. Hometime
5:00 p.m. Ask This Old House
5:30 p.m. This Old House
6:00 p.m. Doc Martin - The Tameness of a Wolf
7:00 p.m. Compassion for Those We Love: A Town Meeting on Caregiving for Alzheimer's in the Hispanic Community

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

12:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Viewers' Favorites

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

12:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Viewers' Favorites

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

12:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Viewers' Favorites

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

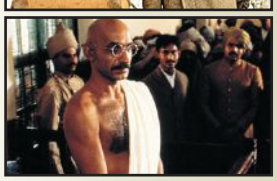
12:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Viewers' Favorites

Beloved Films Come to Television as the Movie Classics Collection Continues on CPTV, CPTV4U and CPTV Sports

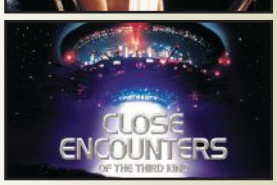
This September, the Movie Classics collection continues with some of the best-loved films in the history of cinema. Offerings include:

Lawrence of Arabia
British officer T.E. Lawrence (Peter O'Toole) learns the culture of Arabs (including Alec Guinness and Anthony Quinn) and unites their tribes against the Turks.
Airing on CPTV: Saturday, September 12 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, September 13 at 12:30 p.m.
Airing on CPTV Sports: Friday, September 25 at 9:30 p.m. and Saturday, September 26 at 1:30 p.m.

Dr. Zhivago
Boris Pasternak's story of a poet and doctor (Omar Sharif), his wife (Geraldine Chaplin) and his lover (Julie Christie) unfolds against the backdrop of the Russian Revolution.
Airing on CPTV: Sunday, September 13 at 9 p.m.
Airing on CPTV4U: Monday, September 14 at 12 p.m.
Airing on CPTV Sports: Friday, September 18 at 9:30 p.m. and Saturday, September 19 at 3:30 p.m.



Gandhi
Richard Attenborough's Oscar-winning portrait stars Ben Kingsley as the man whose policy of nonviolence helped win India's independence.
Airing on CPTV: Sunday, September 27 at 10:30 p.m.
Airing on CPTV4U: Monday, September 28 at 12 p.m.
Airing on CPTV Sports: Friday, September 11 at 10 p.m. and Saturday, September 12 at 4:30 p.m.



Close Encounters of the Third Kind
An Indiana lineman (Richard Dreyfuss) and other UFO sighters, beleaguered by earlier incidents, finally have documented contact with space aliens.
Airing on CPTV Sports: Friday, September 4 at 10:30 p.m. and Saturday, September 5 at 5:30 p.m.

For sponsorship information or tickets, please contact Margaret Lawson at 860.275.7259, or email specialgifts@cptv.org.

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Complete schedule on cptvsports.org

First Up:
Xavier-Middletown at West Haven (LIVE):
Airs Friday, September 11 at 7 p.m.
(Repeats Monday, September 14 at 6 p.m. and Wednesday, September 16 at 9 p.m.)

PBS Online Film Festival Announces 2015 Award Winners

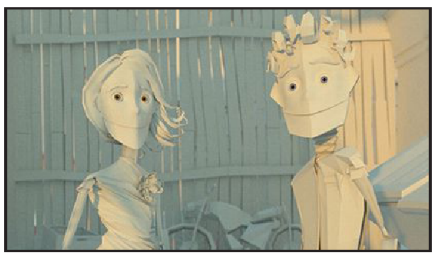
The fourth annual PBS Online Film Festival kicked off this spring, with 25 short films available to screen via PBS and station digital platforms, including at CPTV.org. Two winners of this year's festival were recently announced.

The film that took the People's Choice top honor was "Sinner Victim Saint," a short narrative presented by CET/Think TV. Meanwhile, the animated film "11 Paper Place," presented by member station Vermont PBS, was the most-viewed film.

Directed and written by Moses Flores, "Sinner Victim Saint" tells the story of a man named Isaac, who recently lost his wife in a tragic car accident. After her funeral, Isaac meets a sinister man who claims he can bring Isaac's wife back from the dead, but first, he must learn about the power of sacrifice.

"11 Paper Place," from filmmaker Daniel Houghton, is an animated love story about two sheets of paper that magically transform into paper people as they are spit out of a malfunctioning printer into a recycling bin.

CPTV congratulates the winners, and thanks everyone who visited CPTV.org to view and vote for the films featured in this year's PBS Online Film Festival. The films, including "Sinner Victim Saint" and "11 Paper Place," are still available to view at CPTV.org.



Pictured from top: A still from "Sinner Victim Saint"; a still from "11 Paper Place"

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PBS Programs Receive 30 Primetime Emmy Nominations

The Academy of Television Arts & Sciences recently announced nominations for the 67th Primetime Emmy Awards, for which PBS programs received 30 nominations.

PBS programs receiving multiple nominations include the beloved *Masterpiece* series "Downton Abbey," which received eight nominations; *Masterpiece*'s "Wolf Hall," which also received eight nominations; Ken Burns' seven-part documentary *The Roosevelts: An Intimate History*, which received three nominations; and *Live from Lincoln Center*'s "Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street," which also received three nominations.

The winners will be announced at the awards ceremony, which will be telecast live on September 20 on Fox. CPTV and PBS congratulate all of the nominees! The complete list of nominations received by PBS includes:

***American Experience* - "Last Days in Vietnam"**
- Outstanding Writing for Nonfiction Programming - Mark Bailey and Keven McAlester

American Masters
- Outstanding Documentary or Nonfiction Series

Antiques Roadshow
- Outstanding Structured Reality Program

Cancer: The Emperor of All Maladies
- Outstanding Documentary or Nonfiction Series

***Great Performances* - "Annie Lennox: Nostalgia Live in Concert"**
- Outstanding Directing for a Variety Special - Natalie Johns

***Great Performances* - "Tony Bennett & Lady Gaga: Cheek to Cheek LIVE!"**
- Outstanding Variety Special

***Independent Lens* - "The Great Invisible" (co-nomination with Pivot)**
- Exceptional Merit in Documentary Filmmaking

***Live from Lincoln Center* - "Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street"**
- Outstanding Music Direction - Alan Gilbert
- Outstanding Lead Actress in a Limited Series or a Movie - Emma Thompson
- Outstanding Special Class Program

***Masterpiece* - "Downton Abbey, Season 5"**
- Outstanding Production Design for a Narrative Period Program (One Hour or More)
- Outstanding Costumes for a Period/Fantasy Series, Limited Series or Movie
- Outstanding Casting for a Drama Series
- Outstanding Hairstyling for a Single-Camera Series
- Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Drama Series - Joanne Froggatt
- Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Drama Series - Jim Carter
- Outstanding Drama Series
- Outstanding Sound Mixing for a Comedy or Drama Series (One Hour)

***Masterpiece* - "The Paradise"**
- Outstanding Music Composition for a Series (Original Dramatic Score) - Maurizio Malagnini

***Masterpiece* - "Wolf Hall"**
- Outstanding Costumes for a Period/Fantasy Series, Limited Series or Movie
- Outstanding Casting for a Limited Series, Movie or Special
- Outstanding Directing for a Limited Series, Movie or a Dramatic Special - Peter Kosminsky
- Outstanding Single-Camera Picture Editing for a Limited Series or a Movie
- Outstanding Lead Actor in a Limited Series or a Movie - Mark Rylance
- Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Limited Series or a Movie - Damian Lewis
- Outstanding Limited Series
- Outstanding Writing for a Limited Series, Movie or a Dramatic Special - Peter Straughan

The Roosevelts: An Intimate History
- Outstanding Documentary or Nonfiction Series
- Outstanding Writing for Nonfiction Programming - Geoffrey C. Ward
- Outstanding Narrator - Peter Coyote

The "Unsolved" Murder of Mary Stannard

UNFORTUNATELY, "CSI" WAS ABOUT A CENTURY TOO LATE TO HELP ONE MURDER VICTIM RECEIVE JUSTICE.

Although there have been gruesome murders in Connecticut history, very few feature the astonishing level of injustice that occurred in the brutal September 1878 demise of Mary Stannard. In a sensational trial, Stannard's accused murderer, the Rev. Herbert H. Hayden, was able to avoid a trip to the gallows even though witness testimony and physical proof overwhelmingly demonstrated his guilt.

Much of this story—told in terrific detail by Virginia A. McConnell in *Arsenic Under the Elms*—revolves around the "good" reverend.

According to his certainly-not-suspiciously titled *Rev. Herbert H. Hayden; An Autobiography: The Mary Stannard Murder—Tried on Circumstantial Evidence*, Hayden was born in 1850, grew up in a modest home, attended a seminary and, in 1871, married Rosa C. Show. Within three years, they had two children and, in search of a congregation and in debt, Hayden got a temporary job serving at a church in Rockland, a lightly settled area between Durham and North Madison. From Rockland, Hayden landed a pulpit position in Madison; the distance made it more practical to spend most of the week there.

It was around this time that Rosa fell ill, and with Herbert away often, they turned to Mary Stannard, a comely 21-one-year-old who lived on the farm next door.

Although poor and uneducated, Stannard was hardworking and cheerful. She had given birth to a son out of wedlock but never divulged the father's identity. She took care of the Hayden kids and home, becoming even more needed when in late 1877 Rosa was pregnant again.

Hayden was considered charming and attractive, with wavy hair and a neatly trimmed goatee. In March 1878, he allegedly began an affair with Mary Stannard; the two often were seen together, enjoying passionate encounters in the woods between their properties.

In a few months, the affair apparently was over. Hayden settled back into family life, with Rosa giving birth to a daughter in August, while Stannard went to work in nearby Guilford. However, Stannard started experiencing the symptoms of pregnancy. Already having one child out of wedlock, she decided to abort the pregnancy. Unfortunately, she turned to Hayden for help.

MARY E. STANNARD
(from a photo taken shortly before her death)

HAYDEN, HERBERT H. "MARY E. STANNARD (PORTRAIT)," *THE REV. HERBERT H. HAYDEN: AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY. THE MARY STANNARD MURDER; TRIED ON CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE.* HARTFORD: PRESS OF THE PLIMPTON MFG., 1880.

On Sept. 2, Stannard went to the Haydens' home and secretly confronted her former lover. Susan Hawley, Stannard's half-sister, would later state in court that Mary had gotten the reverend alone in a barn to talk. Stannard explained her condition to Hayden, who had told her that he would get medicine to "take care" of it.

The next day, Sept. 3, 1878—Mary Stannard's 22nd birthday, and her last day alive—Hayden went to Tyler's Drug Store in Middletown and purchased an ounce of arsenic. Upon returning to Rockland, Hayden went to the Stannard home. Again, according to Hawley's testimony, Stannard said that Hayden told her that he had obtained the abortion medicine and that she should meet him later that afternoon at the big rock in the woods between their farms so she could take it.

Around two o'clock, both Stannard and Hayden left their respective houses, heading to the same general vicinity. At six o'clock, Stannard was found dead by her father Charlie, who discovered his murdered daughter's body laid out by the big rock in the woods. There was a large wound on her head and her jugular vein, carotid artery and larynx all had been cut despite no knife being found nearby.

When questioned, Hayden claimed that he had been cutting wood alone and then returned home. He said he never saw Stannard until later that night when he went to the murder scene to help retrieve her body.

Mary Stannard was buried the next day—temporarily, as she would be subsequently exhumed. The day after that, Hayden was arrested for her murder, his knife impounded as evidence.

The first trial was officiated by a friend of Hayden's who had no trial experience and when asked to sign an arrest warrant replied that he would rather sign his own death warrant! He dismissed the case and Hayden was freed. However, an autopsy on Stannard's body revealed the presence of 90 granules of arsenic, which testing proved had been the same poison purchased by Hayden. Human blood was also found on Hayden's knife. Ironically, it was also discovered that Stannard hadn't been pregnant but was suffering from an ovarian cyst, the symptoms of which had only mimicked early pregnancy.

Hayden was arrested again and in November 1879, the "Great Hayden Trial" began. Intense scrutiny was put on the *witnesses*, including the "ignorant" Susan Hawley and Charlie Stannard, who were belittled in court. The cultured Hayden, and, more importantly, his wife Rosa, were treated respectfully by the judge and attorneys, which made a significant impact.

Much of the prosecution's case was spent establishing that the arsenic discovered in Mary Stannard was the same poison obtained by Hayden; in retrospect, it was a brilliant, groundbreaking presentation of forensic evidence. Although today such scientific proof would be damning, in the 19th century most of the jury couldn't comprehend it.

Even with the overwhelming evidence, the jury deliberated for 82 hours. Eleven jurors voted for acquittal while one held out for murder. The other jurors said afterward they voted for acquittal simply because they believed Rosa and were hesitant to make such "a beautiful woman" a widow. (Yet innocent Mary Stannard could lay in a cold grave.)

A mistrial was declared, which was as good as an acquittal because the state did not retry the case. Hayden was free although he was banned from preaching. He moved to New Haven where he lived in obscurity for 27 years, dying in 1907 after a prolonged illness.

So what really happened? One guess is that at the rendezvous, Hayden gave Stannard the "medicine" to abort the phantom pregnancy. Trusting Hayden, Stannard unwittingly ingested it all—except arsenic is slow-acting. Probably realizing that something was very wrong, Stannard may have tried to flee, which is when Hayden could have struck her on the head. Possibly worried that the arsenic wasn't working, Hayden dispatched Stannard with his knife.

Sadly, only Stannard ever knew for sure who murdered her.

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